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JONES COUNTY JUNIOR COLLEGE

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MARCH 2015 VOL. 91, ISSUE 4

OPINION



Free speech is worth defending

On the morning of Jan. 7, terrorists attacked the headquarters of the French newspaper, “Charlie Hebdo.” After

the satirical newspaper published a cartoon depiction of the prophet Muhammad, two Islamic terrorists forcefully infiltrated its headquarters and fired upon the staff.

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ENTERTAINMENT



87th Annual Academy Awards celebrates film

The 87th annual Academy Awards ceremony aired Feb. 23 with the charming host, Neil Patrick Harris. Starting off the night with a well-tailored maroon tuxedo and humorously transitioning into white briefs and other costume changes, Harris won over the crowd with cheesy jokes and the occasional song and dance number.

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FEATURES



The first major choice may not be permanent

Studies have shown that 50-70 percent of college students change majors at least once before graduation. In fact, most students change up to three times. Although students enter college with one mindset and one major, some students make such drastic changes in their major that the choices can seem completely opposite from one another.

– PAGE 4

SPORTS



Bobcats start off season with sweep

To start off the young season, the defending state champion Bobcat baseball team accounted for 19 hits in a doubleheader against Jefferson Davis Community College. The 11th ranked Bobcats swept the visiting Warhawks and held them to one run per game as they won 8-1 and 4-1. In game one, sophomore Daniel Goff got the starting nod for the Bobcats.

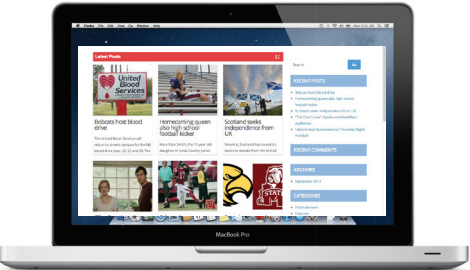
– PAGE 6

Bobcat Search!

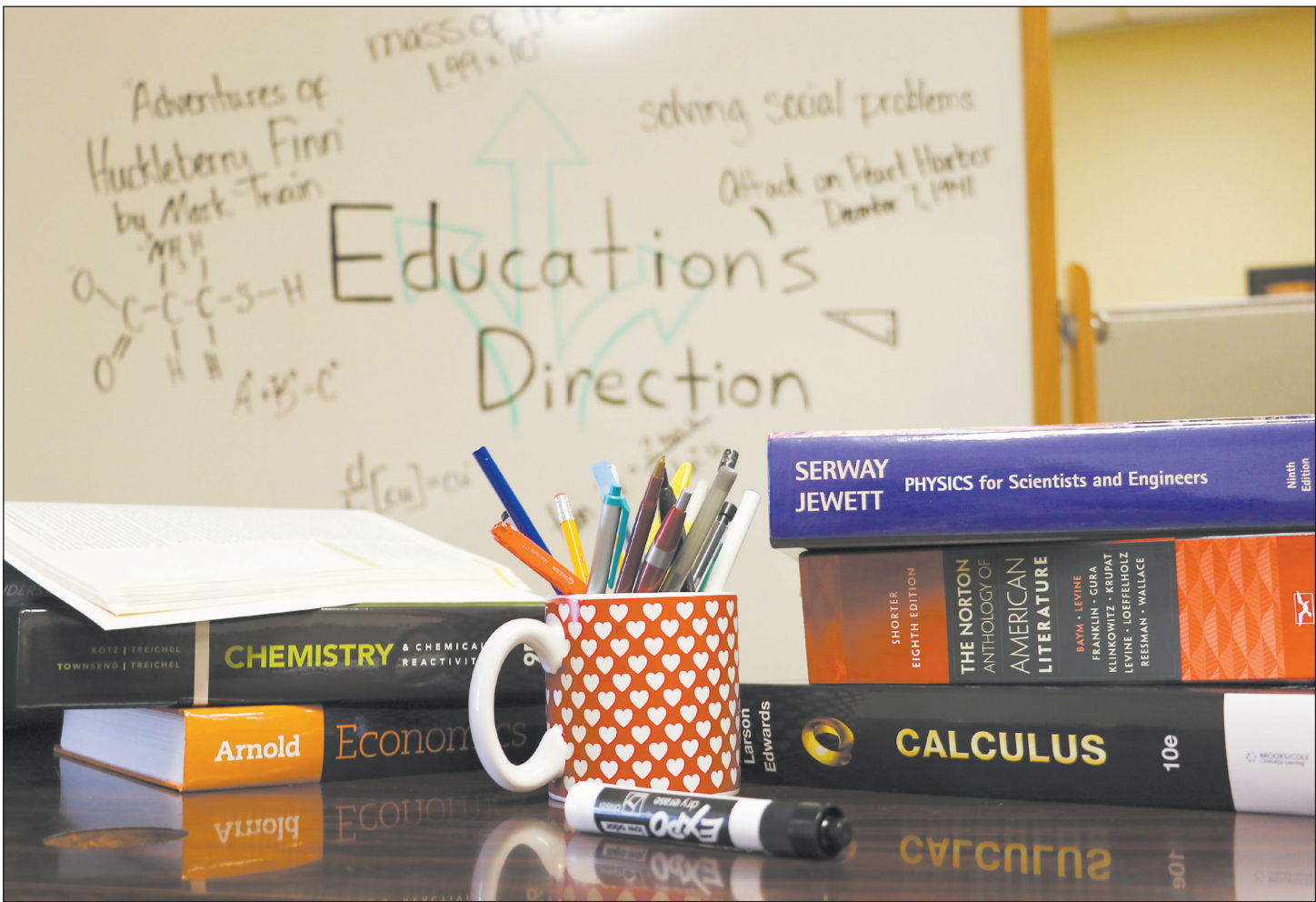
Hidden somewhere in the paper is this Bobcat. When you find it, take a picture and post it as a reply on our Bobcat Press Facebook post and win a t-shirt!



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Education’s Direction

National standards need to change

ARIEL YOUNG
NEWS EDITOR

Affecting students, parents and instructors teaching kindergarten classes to post-graduate level courses, education is one of America’s most widespread concerns.

Common Core is one of the more hot button issues in Mississippi today. In January, state Senators passed a bill to eliminate Common Core throughout the State and replace this practice with new educational standards. Later this year, the full Senate will vote on the bill.

Though many people have fought for this change in Mississippi, the State has already funneled millions of dollars transitioning into Common Core since its adoption in 2010. Without Common Core, the State will need to adopt new Mississippi College and Career

There is more to education than funding, or lack thereof. There are several unique issues our nation and State face, some of which we address in our education package that can be found on page 9.

Readiness Standards and create a new assessment to measure students’ achievements under the new standards.

This process will not only be time-consuming but also costly. Another important factor to consider in education reform is cost. Between elementary, secondary and higher education facilities across the State, the cost of education today is a larger concern than in previous years.

During President Obama’s State of the Union address in January, he offered a solution to the cost of

education for community college attendees: free tuition. While providing free tuition at the community college level could provide more Americans the opportunity to receive a higher education, state officials are still currently struggling to provide already-approved funds to community colleges.

In 2007, Mississippi legislators agreed to provide Mid-Level funding, funding between K-12 schools and senior universities, to community colleges statewide. Eight years later, this funding still has not been completely provided. Community colleges are currently operating with only 52 percent of the promised funds, and K-12 schools are not doing much better.

Since the recession in 2008, Mississippi has cut spending per K-12

see **DIRECTION** page 8



Dr. Matthew Burnham pulls out the t-shirts that will be worn at this year’s Capitol Day event. Some of the students who plan to attend include, left to right, Lindsay Miller, Marie Shirley and Kalli Bunch. PHOTO BY ANNA BETH HOUSTON

Faculty prepare for Capitol Day event

ARIEL YOUNG
NEWS EDITOR

In 2007, Mississippi legislators said they would provide Mid-Level funding, funding between K-12 schools and senior universities, to community and junior colleges across the State. Eight years later in 2015, this goal still has not been met.

To advocate the need for Mid-Level funding, the Mississippi Faculty Association for Community and Junior Colleges (MFACJC) began speaking to politicians 13 years ago. When the legislators finally agreed to the funding but failed to follow through financially, the MFACJC founded Capitol Day. Once a year, supporters,

faculty members and students from Mississippi’s 15 community colleges travel to Jackson to remind legislators of their promise to provide higher funding to community colleges and to show lawmakers why this funding is necessary.

“Mid-level funding covers everything in junior and community college systems,” said Dr. Matthew Burnham, president of JCJC’s Faculty and Staff Association. “Anything that benefits students and their futures—classroom funding, teachers’ salaries, faculty employment, supplies—is covered by Mid-Level funding.”

In reality, community colleges are

see **CAPITOL** page 8

Obama plans to offer free college tuition

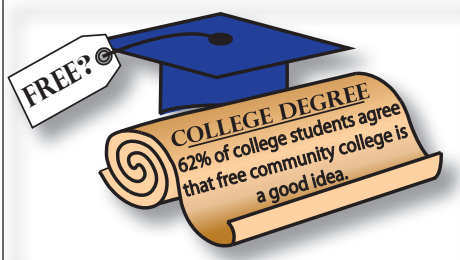
WES HERRING
STAFFWRITER

In President Obama’s State of the Union address earlier this year, he made a proposal to assist Americans wanting to go to community college.

Termed “America’s College Promise,” the plan provides free community college tuition to those who meet and maintain certain academic standards. As of now, those standards include maintaining a 2.5 GPA and possibly a small amount of community service. The plan would also be open to more students than usual scholarships or financial aid grants.

The benefits of this plan would also extend to part-time and non-traditional students. These two groups of students are usually excluded from many scholarship opportunities. A recent article on usnews.com that details how students may be affected states that 60 percent of community college students are part time and that the average age of a community college student is 28-29. Therefore, the plan

see **COLLEGE** page 8



Theater students to perform the musical ‘Guys and Dolls’

HAILEY ISHEE
FEATURES EDITOR

The Jones County Junior College musical theatre group will perform their production of the Broadway musical “Guys and Dolls” for three days in March in the M.P. Bush Fine Arts Auditorium.

The 1950’s musical takes place in New York City, and tells the story about a gambler named Nathan Detroit who has alluded marrying his girlfriend, Miss Adelaide, for 14 years and has instead focused on obtaining the cash to rent a place to host a big gambling game. Unfortunately, Detroit does not have the money he needs to rent the space, so the gambler decides to get the money by making a bet against another gambler, Sky Masterson. The bet includes Masterson persuading a prudish woman, Sarah Brown, to go on a date with him to Havana, Cuba. However, developing feelings threaten to turn the high



The “Dolls” in JCJC’s musical theater production of “Guys & Dolls” are the “Hot Box” dancers, pictured left to right: Lauren Easley, Victoria O’Quin, Hanna Lester, Jenna Smith, Mikaela Malone, Katie Garretson and Lydia Myers. PHOTO BY TERESA McCREERY

wager bet into something more for Masterson and consequently something less for Detroit. JCJC musical theatre carefully selected this

romantic comedy that has been performed many times in Broadway’s limelight. The show’s music and lyrics are by Frank Loesser and the book was written by Abe

Burrows and Jo Swerling in 1955, which was originally based off short stories written by Damon Runyon. JCJC freshman Lydia Myers earned the role

of Miss Adelaide, the spunky, audacious pin-up girl engaged to gambler Nathan Detroit. Before the audition, Myers worked with a former theatre friend

who helped her practice getting into a 1950’s style character. For her audition, she dressed the part she was auditioning for hoping to stand out from the other actors, and she succeeded by landing one of the main roles.

“I am absolutely in love with the 50’s,” said Myers. “From the clothes to the hair and makeup, it’s a timeless era that continues to have an influence on society.”

The other lead female role was given to Morgan Scott, who plays Sarah Brown, an uptight, mission-oriented character who is against gambling. Scott said that the character’s pretentious ways posed a new acting challenge for her that she plans to master before opening night.

“She’s very stuck up in her ways,” said Scott. “Her focus is to save gamblers from evil betting and saving sinners, getting them to repent from their ways.”

Scott is a sophomore who see **MUSICAL** page 7



Dr. Dennis Kimbro passionately motivates students not to abandon their dreams and goals. PHOTO BY TROY ORGERON

Kimbro guest speaker for Black History Program

JESSICA MOORE
STAFFWRITER

Accomplish your dreams and commit to excellence. That was the message conveyed at this year’s Black History Program by guest speaker Dr. Dennis Kimbro. On Feb. 10, Jones County Junior College held its annual Black History Program in the Fine Arts Auditorium with the theme, “The Value of Education.” Dean of Student Affairs Dr. Sam Jones opened up with an invocation and the quote, “Without a vision, people perish.” Dr. Kimbro is a best-selling author and professor at the Clark Atlanta University School of Business who travels around the world as a speaker. Some of his speaking clients include Walt Disney Corps, Frito-Lay, NIKE, Ohio State ‘Buckeye’ football team, and the Denver Nuggets basketball team. He was featured on “USA Today,” the Today Show, and in several magazines.

Kimbro attended the University of Oklahoma where he received his bachelors degree and achieved his masters and doctorate from Northwestern University. At Northwestern, he studied wealth and poverty in poor countries. He developed a passion for educating others and pushing them to accomplish their dreams. At Jones, Kimbro encouraged students to accomplish their dreams and commit to excellence by giving examples of historical African Americans that influenced countless others. He mentioned Benjamin Mays, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Ben Carson and Beyoncé. Benjamin Mays said, “Low aim is a sin,” and Kimbro explained how not having a dream is harmful to people’s futures. He encouraged others to use their time wisely, to believe in themselves and to prosper while mentioning Ben Carson’s history.

see **KIMBRO** page 7

Bobcat cheerleaders place third at nationals

ANNA BETH HOUSTON
STAFFWRITER

The Jones County Junior College cheerleaders recently placed third in the nation. Their hard work and perseverance paid off, and the reward made it all worthwhile. In late October, the JCJC cheerleaders began learning their routine for the Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA) cheer nationals, and on Jan. 17, they performed it at Disney World in Florida. The 16 cheerleaders had two and a half minutes to impress the judges, and they succeeded. This was Joanna Word’s first experience at nationals. While the

see **CHEER** page 10



The JCJC cheerleading squad performs the routine they choreographed and used for nationals at a home basketball game. PHOTO BY ANNA BETH HOUSTON

Former NASA engineer speaks to Honors students

WES HERRING
STAFFWRITER

A former JCJC student-turned-rocket-scientist returned to his alma mater to inspire current students and explain how he achieved his success through perseverance. On Feb. 3, Clyde Dease, Jr., a retired NASA engineer, spoke to students in the Charles Pickering Honors Institute. During his speech, Dease shared his life experiences and reiterated the importance of perseverance. Before retiring from NASA this past January, Dease bore the titles of both facility planning and utilization and rocket scientist. He was responsible for an annual budget of \$75 million and worked with NASA



Clyde Dease, former NASA engineer, motivates students in the Charles Pickering Honors Institute on the importance of perseverance. PHOTO BY ANNA BETH HOUSTON

employees of varied skills. During his career, he has directly impacted many aspects regarding the safety of space travel. Dease accomplished

many great things during his employment at NASA, but he began his journey at Jones County Junior College. After two years at JCJC, he transferred

to the University of Southern Mississippi where he attended for another two years. After graduating from USM, he see **NASA** page 11

Editorial

On the morning of Jan. 7, terrorists attacked the headquarters of the French newspaper “Charlie Hebdo.” After the satirical newspaper published a cartoon depiction of the prophet Muhammad, two Islamic terrorists forcefully infiltrated its headquarters and fired upon the staff. Eleven people were killed, including editorial director Stéphane “Charb” Charbonnier, and 11 others were left injured. A branch of Al-Qaeda took responsibility for the horrific act.

The gunmen sought to silence the voice of “Charlie Hebdo.” Instead, its voice echoed throughout the world. On Jan. 11, just a few days after the attack, 40 world leaders joined 2 million people in Paris while another 3.7 million people gathered across France. The people rallied in demonstrations and in social media with cries of, “Je suis Charlie,” or, “I am Charlie.” What remained of “Charlie Hebdo” staff continued publication, and its next issue sold 7 million copies in six languages. What was meant to be a decisive blow to free speech only rallied people around the world.

As a newspaper staff, the Radonian and its editors firmly believe that free speech is something worth defending. The “Charlie Hebdo” staff was willing to die in defense of free speech. Though unfortunate, their sacrifice was not in vain. France rallied together. Newspapers republished the cartoons. Freedom of speech would not be taken away because of extremists, and we find solace in that fact.

Everyone’s voice deserves to be heard. Without the doctrine of free speech, history is doomed to repeat itself. The public would again be controlled by governments and religious groups throughout the world. It is a person’s freedom to public speech that allows the needs of the masses to be met while allowing minorities their own outlet. Society thrives through this basic human right. It is imperative that the world defends that right at all costs.

Rebels in Ukraine break the ceasefire

IAN YELVERTON
STAFF WRITER

Ukrainian rebels in the wrong

The extremely tense situation in Ukraine, once a territory controlled by Russia, has once again boiled over after the rebels broke the ceasefire.

Ukrainian soldiers and pro-Russian rebels alike are attempting to gain ground by exterminating the other. Prior to the outbreak of continued fighting, both sides were involved in peace talks. However, both agreed there would need to be significant strides made for there to be lasting peace.

These talks lasted until Feb. 11 when 50 tanks, 40 missile systems and 40 armored vehicles supposedly entered Ukraine from Russia. Ukraine has stated Russia is responsible for supplying the rebels with such hardware, which Russia, of course, denied.

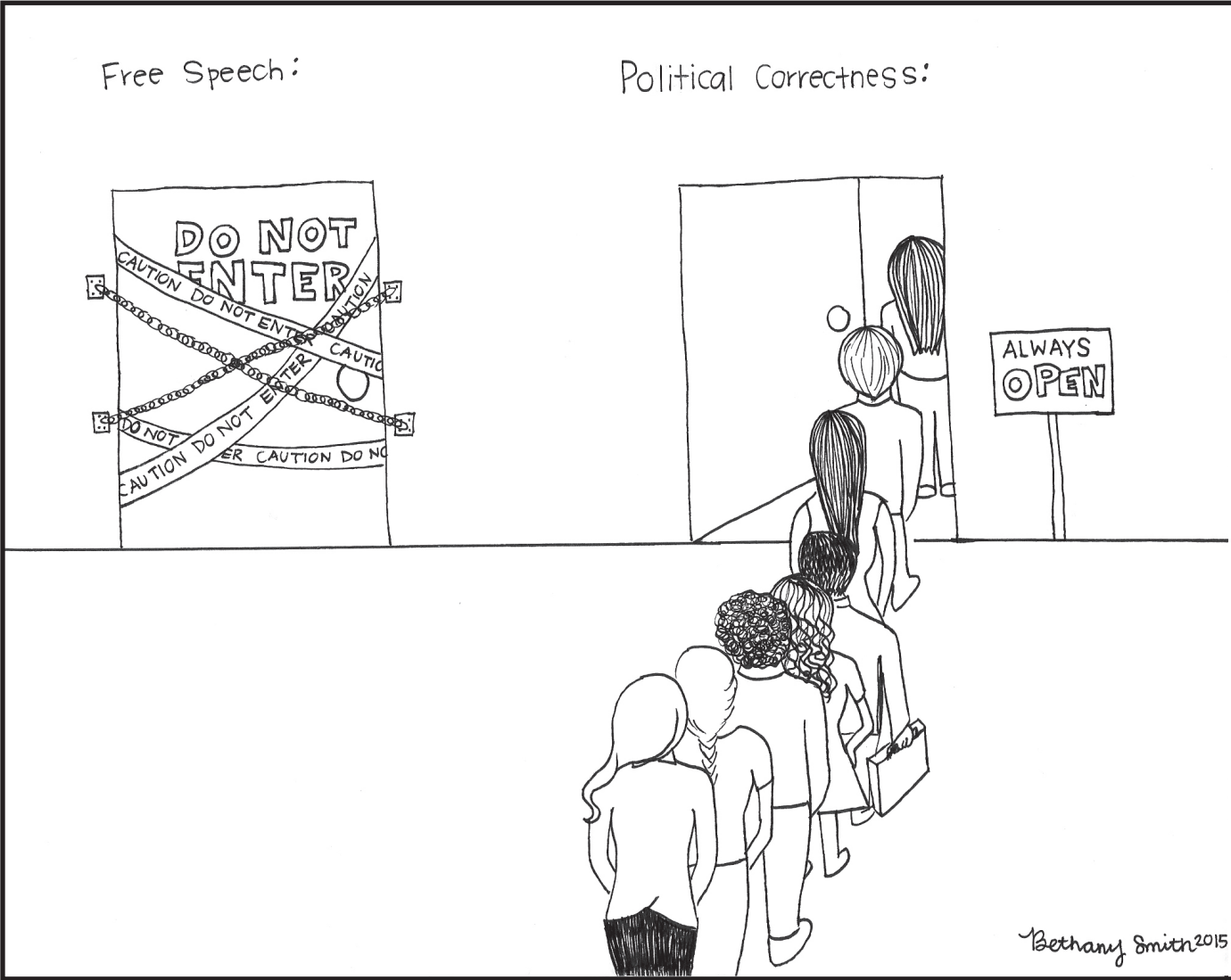
As fighting once again resumes, the time has come

to think of ways of stopping this conflict. This is mainly to ensure the safety of civilians, people who play no part in this situation and never asked to play a part. Civilians are almost always caught in the crossfire and suffer.

Obviously, Ukraine is divided on which path to take towards the future. There are those who wish to remain an independent state while the rebels wish to live under Russia. For those who value their independence, they should keep to that path. Very few things are as liberating as belonging to an independent nation and living by laws chosen, not forced.

As for the pro-Russian separatists, all they continue to accomplish is making life a living hell for everyone in Ukraine. They have established significant control over two cities, Donetsk and Luhansk, with the objective of unifying them into a “New Russia”

see **REBELS** page 10



Free college plan has pros, cons

IAN YELVERTON
STAFF WRITER

President Obama recently issued a proposal that sounds very enticing. He wants to push for abolishing tuition for community college-level education. This proposal is a huge help for those who want to continue their education beyond high school but do not have the

money to afford college tuition. This course of action could result in an increased number of college graduates. This in turn would most likely have the positive consequence of potential workers with specialized skills, possibly attracting more businesses and industries within the U.S. However, do the pros actually outweigh the cons of free community

college?

The problem begins with the wording. “Free” is a word many do not understand. Nothing is truly free. If something is free to an individual, someone, somewhere pays for it.

For a community college to continue running as usual, money needs to continue flowing as it was or increase; this would be due to a

school likely having to expand its facilities and hire new employees to accommodate for the influx of additional students.

Funding towards this endeavor would likely come from the government, either national or state. No matter the level of authority, tax dollars

see **PROS** page 10

Measles aids case for vaccination

MARIANNA LUNSFORD
STAFF WRITER

With the recent large, multi-state measles outbreak at hand, the debate on whether or not to vaccinate is increasingly heated. While vaccinations are mandatory for kindergarten entry in most of the United States, these laws concede to the anti-vaccine, anti-

science movement in many states. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there were 644 cases of measles reported from 27 different states in 2014. This is the largest number of cases since 2000, when measles elimination was documented in the U.S., so what has happened in the past 15 years to cause such a great re-

emergence of a once contained and controlled disease?

Many parents are making uninformed decisions on the basis that vaccinations cause autism. Major studies provided by “The Journal of Pediatrics” and “The Institute of Medicine” have not found any link between vaccines and autism.

Some parents are

declining vaccinations and seeking more alternative health care options, decisions that are putting their children and even vaccinated children at risk. The recent outbreak of measles, which originated at a Southern California amusement park, has spread to 121 people from 17 different

see **VACCINES** page 10

Should insurance companies fine smokers?

HAILEY ISHEE
FEATURES EDITOR

Some insurances companies are adopting a new policy that raises rates for people who smoke, chew, or use any form of tobacco. Insurance companies say that tobacco users are at a higher risk of needing healthcare due to tobacco’s danger. Because of this, some companies

feel that people who consciously put their body at risk should support that decision by paying higher insurance rates.

Health insurance is mandatory for all U.S. citizens, so adding new policies that could possibly affect everyone should be deliberated carefully before they are accepted. In this case, if insurances implicated

higher rates for customers who use tobacco products, this could not only encourage people to quit the unhealthy habit, but it could also decrease the average insurance rate for all customers. In addition, this regulation could have a positive impact on the people and their environment by making health problems caused by tobacco use diminish.

However, this change could also infringe on people’s right to have a choice and could also lead to more restrictions affecting how every person lives life. If insurances decided to raise the rates on tobacco users because it’s a preventive health problem, could this open the door to including other regulations on habits

see **SMOKING** page 10

Questions on State of the Union arise

MARY KATHRYN LANDRUM
STAFF WRITER

President Barack Obama presented his 2015 State of the Union Address on Jan. 20.

He began the speech by outlining the difficulties the U.S. has faced these past 15 years, discussing everything that has been remedied. He discussed many facts about our economy today and

emphasized how much better off we are now than at the turn of the century – during President George W. Bush’s presidency.

“The shadow of crisis has passed, and the State of the Union is strong,” said President Obama, but is that really the case?

Obama gave the following facts during his speech: the job increase rate is higher than it has been since 1999; the U.S.

is number one in wind power; and low gas prices will save the average family money every year. While these may seem true upon initial observation, all of them are unfortunately masking a terrible reality.

The job increase rate he mentioned was vastly exaggerated. The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports the latest rates at the end of 2014 were at 5 percent.

However, they also reported the rates to be 6.9 percent in 2003 and 7.8 percent in 2000. Clearly details have been overlooked in this aspect.

The United States, as much as we would like it to be, is not number one in wind energy; we are number two. According to Discovery, China is actually first in the race for more

see **UNION** page 10

The Radonian

Jones County Junior College
Ellisville MS 39437
www.bobcatpress.com

News Editor: Ariel Young kyoung5739@jcjc.edu
Opinions Editor: Chance Clark wclark4335@jcjc.edu
Features Editor: Hailey Ishee hishee0776@jcjc.edu
Entertainment Editor: Bethany Smith bsmith5033@jcjc.edu
Sports Editor: Dalton Middleton dmiddleton5923@jcjc.edu
Bobcat Press Editor: Ian Yelverton iyelverton5737@jcjc.edu
Video Editor: Cody Courtney
Photographers: Anna Beth Houston, Troy Orgeron
Staff Writers: Cody Courtney, Joseph Crosby, Wes Herring, Mary Kathryn Landrum, Marianna Lundsford, Christian Miller, Jessica Moore, Alyssa Scott

Advisor: Kelly Atwood kelly.atwood@jcjc.edu

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Deadline for letters is the 15th of every month.

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Crazy excuses for being late



Minor Mishaps

by Christian Miller

I graduated from a small school in a small town, where nobody ever lived over 20 minutes away from the school, so there were only a few legitimate excuses a person could use if late for class.

I have had more than my fair share of morning trouble, one of which includes getting stuck behind a tractor. Since there was never any traffic in our town, farmers could easily and illegally drive their tractors on public roads at any given time. However, it was incredibly

inconvenient for everybody else and turned a five minute trip into a 10 minute trip once trapped behind a tractor.

The slow tractors are only one out of several excuses. The first is incredibly unfortunate and a little on the crazy side. One morning a local school bus decided to run a stop sign less than a mile from the elementary school at the same time a man had a heart attack while driving. The bus driver dodged the man's vehicle, which was in the middle of the road, but in the process ran into a person's yard and through their porch.

Not only did this ruin a

see **EXCUSES** page 10

The game of kings conquers campus

HAILEY ISHEE EDITOR

Rook moves to D3. In one motion, the rook crosses the board and corners the target. The king has been met. Checkmate.

The game of kings has finally made its way to Jones County Junior College thanks to Clint McMullan, JCJC's web administrator and founder of the school's first official chess club.

The club had a successful first meeting Jan. 29 with a turnout of 12 members along with the expectation of more to join soon.

McMullan said, "When USM (the University of Southern Mississippi) started a chess club, they had about one person show, so JCJC had a nice turnout."

The game of chess

see **CHESS** page 10



Jordan Sanders, a JC student and chess club member, concentrates during a game of chess. PHOTO BY TROY ORGERON

Break into spring by reconnecting

BETHANY SMITH EDITOR

Spring Break is finally on its way, and those last few days of classes before break will end Friday, March 6. Students will be allowed a much-needed break to do whatever they please, and even though Spring Break isn't an official holiday, many students treat it as such.

Sometimes being in college is financially draining and can limit

students' "holiday" options. Nonetheless, there are many ways for students to enjoy spring break without spending a lot of money.

After weeks of being away from home, students who live on campus may need some down time to go home and see their family because being back home can be the best relaxing therapy. However, for others, staying home alone or with a few friends

see **SPRING** page 10



Relaxing outside mid spring. PHOTO PROVIDED BY SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

The first choice in majors may not be permanent

CODY COURTNEY STAFF WRITER

Studies have shown that 50-70 percent of college students change majors at least once before graduation. In fact, most students change up to three times. Although students enter college with one mindset and one major, some students make such drastic changes in their major that the choices can seem completely opposite from one another.

JCJC student Terry Jackson entered college as a freshman with the chosen major of chemical engineering. Now a sophomore, he has made a vast change to music education.

"In high school I took a lot of classes like physics and calculus," said Jackson. "I liked the classes too, but when I came to college I realized music was my passion."

College is about discovering passions and deciding if these interests should play a role in future career choices. Jackson said the love he has for creating music and sharing it with others is what drives him. When he made the choice to change majors to something he loves doing, a whole world of opportunities opened up for him. He said he decided to choose the major that would fill his life with joy and excitement.

"Every person that I told was just ecstatic even more than I was about it," he said.

Jackson, however, said that his family took a longer time to adjust to his change, but they were still supportive of his choice. When Jackson finishes his education, he hopes to become the director of a band on the collegiate level and write the music



Former engineering major Terry Jackson repositions his path and chooses to follow his aspiration for music. PHOTO BY TROY ORGERON

for the show theme he chooses.

"Life is a lot better now that I changed my major," said Jackson.

A lot of thought often goes into changing majors, especially if the major change is widely different such as a science major to a fine arts degree. JCJC, as well as most colleges,

have the degree choice for general studies, and this option should be considered when thinking of a major change. The first two years of college are usually used to complete the basic classes needed by all majors; however, several science-related majors require pre-requisite classes before

entering classes for their major.

Jackson shared some tips for people thinking of changing majors.

"Find a class that you look forward to going to everyday or just find intriguing, and look into majors associated with

see **MAJORS** page 10

Old tastes acquire new flavors

TROY ORGERON STAFF WRITER

The restaurant business these days is hit-and-miss. Several local restaurants have closed recently due to different causes, but on a positive note, some have opened or are being rebuilt or updated.

Recently, Brownstone's in downtown Hattiesburg, located at 103 E. Front St., closed their doors for good on Jan. 15. According to "The Hattiesburg American," this note was left on the door of Brownstone's:

"We'd like to thank our customers, friends, family and vendors for your support over the last 8+ years," the post read. "After so many years of blood, sweat, tears and dreams dedicated to this restaurant, the City of Hattiesburg and especially the down town, we feel it is time for this chapter of Brownstone's to come to an end."

Sophomore Summer Garner said, "I will miss Brownstone's; I can remember the fun and relaxed atmosphere, yet good Cajun styled food they had to offer."

Also closing in Hattiesburg was Mellow

Mushroom and the southern style restaurant 206 Front Street. Tom White, who opened 206 Front on July 15, 2002, decided to close the restaurant in order to concentrate on his other businesses, Bianchi's Pizzeria and Domenico's Gelato Bar. 206 closed in early November.

Even though some places have to shut down, more must open, such as Ellisville Donuts & Kolaches in downtown Ellisville. Since Dec. 1 the shop has opened at 5:30 a.m., allowing students the chance to stop by on their way to class for donuts, kolaches or coffee.

Marianna Glaze, a sophomore at Jones said, "I thought it was really good, delicious and very well priced to fit a college student's budget. I also think it is great for Ellisville to be getting more local restaurants and things for us to enjoy!"

In addition to the old and new restaurants, some people have wondered what happened to Sonic.

Chad Gilbreath, the manager of Sonic in Ellisville said, "The reason Sonic is being tore down is actually to renovate it. We are updating to a new,



Top: JCJC student, Kierra Bolton, at Donuts and Kolaches. Bottom Right: Donuts and Kolaches' store front. Bottom Left: Construction workers rebuilding Sonic. PHOTOS BY TROY ORGERON

bigger and better facility to accommodate the demand that we have."

Sonic will add a drive thru and update the order taking process, allowing customers to see what they're ordering on a computer screen at each stall. They are also adding a

two-sided kitchen to help deliver orders faster during the busiest parts of the day, along with public restrooms to accommodate customers.

"This will be the top-of-the-line, updated version

see **FOOD** page 10

87th Annual Academy Awards celebrates film



THINK BRUH

by Bethany Smith

The 87th annual Academy Awards ceremony aired Feb. 23 with the charming host, Neil Patrick Harris.

Starting off the night with a well-tailored maroon tuxedo and humorously transitioning into white briefs and several other costume changes, Harris won over the crowd with cheesy jokes and the

occasional song and dance number. After dramatic entrances by A-listers and red carpet interviews, the ceremony began. With the nomination list released over five months ago, anticipation was high for both movie makers and movie lovers alike. The Oscars featured music artists such as Adam Levine, Jennifer Hudson and Rita Ora performing between each of the 24 categories.

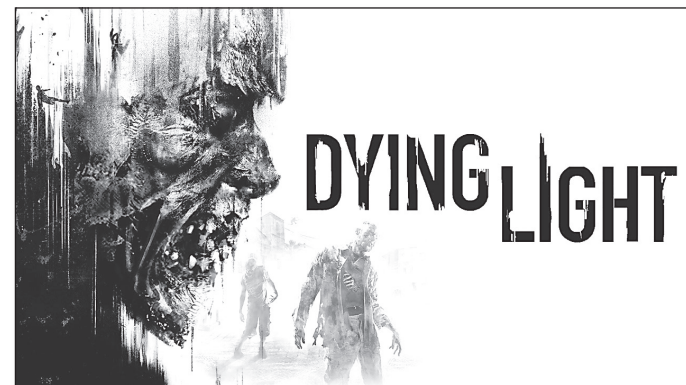
Best Actor in Supporting Role went to J.K. Simmons for his performance in “Whiplash,” and Best Actress

in Supporting Role went to Patricia Arquette for “Boyhood.” Stealing four Oscars for Best Makeup and Hairstyling, Best Original Score, Best Production Design and Best Costume Design, “Grand Budapest Hotel” left with an armful of trophies.

The animated film of the year, according to the Academy, went to “Big Hero 6.” Eddie Redmayne won Best Actor for his performance in “The Theory of Everything,” and Best Actress went to Julianne Moore for “Still Alice.”

“The Imitation Game,” which was nominated for eight, won one Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay. For the foreign language film category, “Ida,” a moving German drama, took home the trophy. Finally and most importantly, the Best Picture of 2015 was awarded to “Birdman,” an innovative film about a washed-up ex-movie star and his struggle putting on a play on Broadway.

Whether a favorite film won or not on Oscar night, viewers enjoyed an evening of glamour and excitement.



‘Dying Light’ is a great start to 2015



GAME GURU

by Ian Yelverton

“Dying Light,” the latest game from “Dead Island” developer Techland, begins as a routine airdrop into a city that has been cut off from the world. From there, it becomes the best open-world playground in a zombie apocalypse setting in years.

Arguably, the most important aspect of a modern video game is its story. While interesting, in the opening levels, “Dying Light’s” tale doesn’t really go anywhere. It

becomes uninteresting, with bland main missions and forgettable characters. The story is not bad, but it certainly would not be something to write home about.

Techland has experience with brutal combat in zombie games, having previously developed “Dead Island.” Because of that experience, it’s no surprise that “Dying Light” truly shines in the gameplay. The hand-to-hand combat against zombies and the occasional human enemy is greatly improved over Techland’s previous work. While using firearms is definitely useful

see **LIGHT** page 11

50 Shades of Grey disappoints viewers

ARIEL YOUNG
NEWS EDITOR

Making its Valentine’s Day weekend debut and earning \$81.7 million at the box office, “Fifty Shades of Grey” premiered as the most anticipated movie of 2015.

Based on E. L. James’s novel of the same name, the film stars Jamie Dornan as the billionaire bachelor Christian Grey and Dakota Johnson as the average and naïve literature lover Anastasia Steele.

Though the novel has sold over 100 million copies worldwide, the movie does little to live up to the book’s legacy.

The controversial film follows Anastasia as she meets and soon falls for Christian in the most unlikely of circumstances. From the initial meet, Christian pursues Ana in hopes of making her his new sexual partner, an offer that Ana heavily deliberates before answering. However, Christian’s preferences differ from anything Ana

knows in her extremely limited experiences, and Christian struggles to win her trust while keeping his much-needed distance and control over her.

Because of the taboo nature of the novel, the film sacrifices components that work well in the novel in exchange for visual representation of Christian and Ana’s sexual exploits. Elements such as Christian and Ana’s email banter and Ana’s continuous inner dialogue between her “subconscious” and “inner goddess” offer more thorough glimpses into the characters’ personalities.

Without these factors in the movie, Christian and Ana’s conversations seem forced and insincere, and Ana is portrayed as having no real struggle internal or external against Christian’s dominance save for one scene.

Although the book trilogy has been referred to as a love story, the movie does not effectively portray this romance due to the actors’ disdain with the story and each other. According to an

article in the “Washington Post,” during their press tour, Dornan compared the mass appeal of “Fifty Shades” to Adolf Hitler’s rise to power. In a separate interview with “Us Weekly,” Johnson said part of her

into Christian’s dark background, leaving him depicted as an abusive business mogul who cares extremely little about Ana’s needs or well-being. The relationship between the two is strained at best,

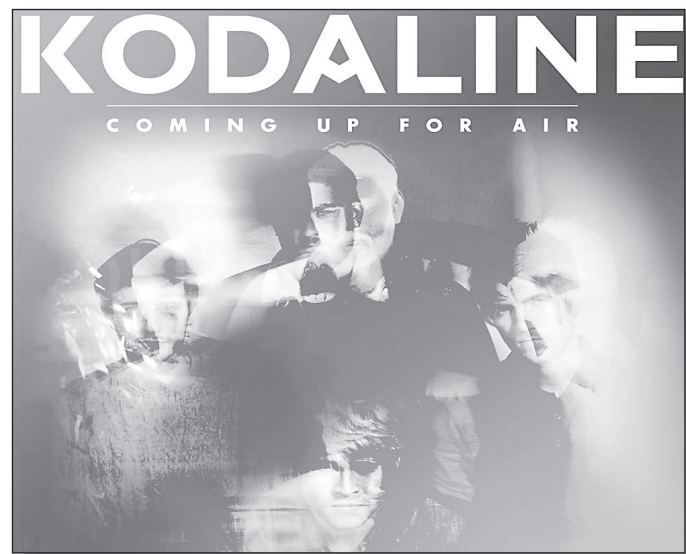


didn’t want anyone to see the movie. Both actors said they were uncomfortable with their characters’ intimate behavior, and this lack of attraction can be seen in almost every scene of the film.

Overall the film offers little to no insight

and the film adaptation focuses more on heavy nudity than character development.

This film is rated R for language and for strong sexual content including dialogue, some unusual behavior and graphic nudity.



Kodaline’s latest album brings a fresh new sound



MUSIC MATTERS

by Marianna Lunsford

A sea of passionate lyrics, refined vocals, and impressive instrumentals, “Coming Up for Air” is by all means a breath of fresh air in today’s overrated pop music industry.

Debuting on Feb. 9, “Coming Up for Air” is the sophomore studio album of the Irish alternative rock band, Kodaline. The album’s first single, “Honest,” was released on Dec. 8, 2014 and topped the charts at number 11 in Ireland.

In “Coming Up for Air,” the Irish quartet genuinely portrays the beauty and difficulties of angst, young love. The album offers a multitude of catchy melodies and elegant harmonies.

“Coming Up for Air” is a true work of art that combines upbeat songs, such as the track “Ready,” with polished ballads while still remaining consistent throughout.

Although the album is composed of 16 tracks, it doesn’t seem prolonged or exhausted.

The album’s subtle electronic rhythms and synchronized “whoa’s” hold the listener’s attention while the sounds of the refreshing acoustic guitar and simple keyboard smoothly transition the tracks from one to the next.

While branching out yet still staying true to their emotional souls, “Coming Up for Air” is a comforting invitation to the brokenhearted.

Anyone pushing through a painful breakup or simply wanting to sing their heart out should certainly give this album a listen.

Call Saul spin off holds its own

CHANCE CLARK
OPINIONS EDITOR

AMC’s spin-off to its now classic series “Breaking Bad” aired its first episode on Feb. 8.

“Better Call Saul” follows the titular James McGill, played by Bob Odenkirk, who acted as attorney and confidant for drug-lord Walter White. More commonly known as Saul Goodman (which is a play on the words, “S’all good, man!”), the new series focuses on the comical criminal defense lawyer seven years before “Breaking Bad.”

Vince Gilligan, who created “Breaking Bad,” and Peter Gould created the new prequel in order to show the history of the highly popular lawyer. Known for his charismatic, yet effective approach to law, the story of Saul

Goodman is a popular topic of fans of AMC’s original hit series. Gilligan hinted at the possible spin-off back in 2012, though the show was not confirmed until 2013. He said he liked “the idea of a lawyer show in which the main lawyer will do anything it takes to stay out of a court of law.”

With ties to “Breaking Bad,” Saul Goodman’s story intertwines with events that take place before, during and after the former show. From his humble beginnings to his life after “Breaking Bad,” Goodman’s life is definitely an interesting ride for the audience. Reoccurring characters from the original show are already making appearances. Although fans of the new series note Goodman as more comedic than other characters, the show is

much more than just a comedy.

“It’s 85 percent drama, 15 percent comedy,” acknowledged Odenkirk.

There was some concern that the season premiere would not compare to “Breaking Bad.” However, its debut episode broke the record for the highest-rated scripted series premiere in basic cable history, with more than 6.9 million viewers tuning in for its opening. The show has also achieved critical acclaim, holding a score of 100 percent on Rotten Tomatoes.

Fans and newcomers alike are sure to enjoy “Better Call Saul.” One thing is for certain, no matter where his life takes us, Saul Goodman’s drama stands on its own, and audiences are sure to enjoy it.



“Arrow” returns to television

JOSEPH CROSBY
STAFF WRITER

Arrow is a show about billionaire playboy Oliver Queen (Stephen Amell) who experiences a violent shipwreck, trapping him on a deserted island. After experiencing brutal tragedies for five years, he returns to Starling City as the green hooded vigilante known as the Arrow. Though, his trials didn’t end on the island.

After Oliver returns home, former love interest and attorney Laurel (Katie Cassidy) goes through tragedies of her own but doesn’t know how to deal with the pain. She blames the Arrow for one major tragedy, and someone else for causing it. She turns to addiction and falls further into misery.

Eventually, she goes into therapy and slowly begins her road to recovery, developing into a more reformed Laurel. As the show progresses, and she

see **ARROW** page 10

Bobcats start off season with sweep

DALTON MIDDLETON
SPORTS EDITOR

To start off the young season, the defending state champion Bobcat baseball team accounted for 19 hits in a doubleheader against Jefferson Davis Community College. The 11th ranked Bobcats swept the visiting Warhawks and held them to one run per game as they won 8-1 and 4-1.

In game one, sophomore Daniel Goff got the starting nod for the Bobcats. He allowed one hit in each of the first two innings, but escaped both situations with double plays. In the bottom of the second inning, the Bobcats struck for the first run.

Carter Polles was hit by a pitch to start off the inning. He then stole second base and scored on a Peyton Attaway single. That made the score 1-0 Bobcats.

In the third inning, JCJC extended their lead. Freshman Clint Sasser hit a single and stole second base to get into scoring position. Dylan Manichia then hit a single that scored Sasser to make the score 2-0. Two throwing errors on the play advanced Manichia to third base. Chase Hensley hit a double in the next at-bat to score Manichia and make the score 3-0. Polles doubled right after Hensley to extend the lead to 4-0.

The Warhawks scored a run in the fifth inning when

Brandon Goins doubled and scored on a Greg Cianglotto single, making the score 4-1. The Bobcats responded in the bottom half of the inning with a run of their own.

Chris Morgan led the inning off with a double and later scored on a Manichia fielder's choice. In the sixth inning, they extended the score to 7-1. Chris Richardson got on base with a fielder's choice and Morgan singled to advance him to third. Richardson then scored on a wild pitch and Morgan scored on a Sasser single. In the top of the seventh inning,



Sophomore Chris Morgan slides into home for JCJC. PHOTO BY ANNA BETH HOUSTON

see **BASEBALL** page 7

Bobcat Spotlight

Bobcat Spotlight honors JCJC’s best and brightest athletes. These students are recognized for excellence in their respective sport.



What is your favorite thing about baseball, and what is your biggest inspiration?

My favorite thing about baseball is that it's fun. It's a game. I have played since i was little and I love the competition. The feeling of putting the uniform on is a special feeling I try not to take for granted. I am blessed to play the game I love.

My biggest inspiration is my dad. He has taught me so much as far as how to play the game and how to carry myself on and off the field. He always keeps me in check and gives me things to look at everyday to improve my play. He pushes me to be the best I can be and compete hard every time i am on the field.



What is your favorite thing about baseball, and what is your biggest inspiration?

My favorite thing about baseball is the atmosphere. The overall feel when you arrive at the ballpark is like no other. You can feel the excitement surrounding you from all of your teammates and that's what drives you to go out there and compete for one another.

My biggest inspiration is my dad. He introduced me to baseball when i was small and was the first person to teach me how to play the game the right way. He coached me for many years and made sure to keep baseball fun for me. He's one of the main reasons I am still playing today and has given me the confidence to be successful.

Stutts defends championship title

CHRISTIAN MILLER
STAFF WRITER

After winning state last year, sophomore Krissy Stutts is defending her tennis title this season. “Krissy is an outstanding individual and a true asset to our team,” coach Mark Easley said. “You never have to worry about her grades dropping or her getting into trouble. She represents the college and the team in everything she does.”

For a while Stutts had no idea where she wanted to go to college. Two of her teammates from Petal High School were looking at JCJC, and she decided to go with them. After meeting the team and realizing how nice they were, she knew Jones was where she needed to be. Stutts signed with her high school teammates on the same day.

“Coach Easley is so great and we have a determined and talented team,” Stutts said. “He never puts pressure on us to win or talks down to us when we lose. He always tells us not to give up and keep trying. I couldn’t have asked for a better group of people to play with.”

From the time Stutts was 10 years old her dad coached her at tennis, and in ninth grade she competed in her first tournament. The game is such a big part of the family's life, they built a tennis court at the house.

“Having my dad as a coach is difficult



Sophomore Krissy Stutts. PHOTO BY ANNA BETH HOUSTON

see **STUTTS** page 7

Lightsey looks to return to Nationals

ALYSSA SCOTT
STAFF WRITER

Sophomore standout Graham Lightsey has high hopes for the JCJC Bobcats this tennis season.

“We’re pretty good this season, and better than we were last year,” the general studies major said. “We’re trying to make top three for state so we can go back to nationals.”

With Lightsey's help last year, the JCJC men's team posted a 10-4 regular season, finished third in the MACJC/Region 23 Tournament and placed 20th in the 2014 NJCAA National Tennis Championships in Plano, Texas.

Lightsey explains that the expectations he has for his team can be attributed not only to their athletic ability, but also to the close bond he and his teammates share.

The sophomore said that his decision to play for JCJC was influenced by the school being close to home along with family members who previously played for the Bobcats. He committed to JCJC in early 2013.

Lightsey plans to attend aviation school after getting his degree from JCJC.

The number one singles and doubles player proudly said his father is the one



Sophomore Graham Lightsey. PHOTO BY ANNA BETH HOUSTON

see **LIGHTSEY** page 7

Lady Bobcats dominate against Marion Military

DALTON MIDDLETON
SPORTS EDITOR

After last season's devastating ending in the national championship, the number one ranked Bobcats softball team opened up their season with a sweep over Marion Military Institute 13-0 and 2-0.

Teri Richey got the starting nod for the Bobcats, and delivered a dominating win. She shut the visiting team down to only three hits.

After a quick top half of the first inning, JCJC exploded with some big hits to take a 3-0 lead. Kalyn Watts led off the season with a homerun in her first at-bat. After two groundouts, Lauren Holifield and Brittany Seale hit back-to-back homeruns for the Bobcats.

In the second inning, Karla Santiago was hit by a pitch and Savannah Lyon hit a two run homerun in the next at-bat to give

the Bobcats a 5-0 lead. Watts was then hit by a pitch and scored on a two run homerun by Lauren Holifield, her second home run of the game. That made the score 7-0.

In the third inning, Kimberly Nilsson was hit by a pitch to get on base. Lyon hit her second two run home run of the game in the next at bat and extended the lead to 9-0. Santiago was then hit by a pitch, Watts singled, and Rebecca Monceaux singled to score Santiago.

Defending National Player of the Year Tori Dew stepped up to the plate and hit a single that scored both runners on base. Seale hit a single that later scored Dew and the score was 13-0.

Neither team scored after that in the game, and the game ended after five innings.

In the second game, the Bobcats could not seem to

see **DOMINATE** page 7

The Pick Six

This month we will predict game winners for the 2014/2015 professional basketball season. Predicting will be Jones students Dalton Middleton, Seth Nash, Joseph Denmark, Anna Beth Houston, Bethany Smith and Ariel Young.

BASKETBALL PREDICTIONS						
	Dalton Middleton	Seth Nash	Joseph Denmark	Anna Beth Houston	Bethany Smith	Ariel Young
	Thunder vs. Clippers	Thunder	Clippers	Clippers	Clippers	Thunder
	Nets vs. Heat	Heat	Nets	Heat	Heat	Heat
	Pelicans vs. Warriors	Warriors	Pelicans	Warriors	Pelicans	Pelicans
	Suns vs. Rockets	Rockets	Suns	Suns	Suns	Rockets
	Spurs vs. Hawks	Hawks	Spurs	Spurs	Spurs	Hawks
	Bulls vs. Cavaliers	Bulls	Cavaliers	Cavaliers	Cavaliers	Bulls

Basketball heads to tournament

DALTON MIDDLETON
SPORTS EDITOR

The regular basketball season has come to a close, but it isn't over for JCJC's teams. The Lady Bobcats are back in the state tournament and looking to repeat as state champions. They enter the MACJC state tournament as the South's number three seed after posting a 16-6 record and a 10-4 record in division play. With a talented offense that scores 83 points per game, JCJC defeated Northwest Lady Rangers in the first round of the tournament 91-71. The Lady Bobcats looked to freshman Taylor Baudoin to play well, as she averages 17.6 points and 7.9 rebounds a game. She's already carried the title of National Player of

the Week. After the MACJC state tournament, they will travel and play in the Region 23 tournament. One year after winning the NJCAA national tournament, the Bobcats are going into the tournament as the South's number two seed after losing the tie breaker to the overall number one team Pearl River. The explosive Bobcats are 18-3 and 11-3 in division play with key losses to East Central, Pearl River and Mississippi Gulf Coast. They lost to Northeast Community College in the first round of the state tournament and will look to sophomore point guard Bryce Jones to lead them in the Region 23 tournament. He is putting up magnificent numbers, averaging 19.7 points and 5.9 assists a game.



Jones Bobcat Marquis Cunningham goes up for shot against Hinds Community College. PHOTO BY ANNA BETH HOUSTON

U.S. measles outbreak due to concerns over side effects of immunizations

MARIANNA LUNSFORD
STAFF WRITER

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 121 cases of measles have been reported in 17 states and Washington, D.C. from Jan. 1 to Feb. 6. Eighty-five percent of these cases are said to be part of a large, ongoing multi-state outbreak that has been linked to a Southern California Disney theme park. Jones County Junior College's Nurse Practitioner Vicki Hampton said, "The measles is a viral infection that spreads through airborne droplets, such as coughing and sneezing. It starts with a fever, runny nose, cough and then

develops into a rash." Once a person contracts measles, there is no treatment for the disease. Secondary illnesses, such as pneumonia, typically occur. In 2014, the U.S. experienced a record number of measles cases, with 644 cases reported from 27 different states. This is the largest number of cases since measles elimination was documented in the U.S. in 2000. The disease is still prominent throughout the world, including countries in Europe, Asia, the Pacific and Africa. World travelers continuously bring the disease into the U.S., but

until recently, it had caused little trouble due to the vaccination of U.S. citizens. The majority of people that have contracted measles in this current outbreak and the outbreaks in 2014 were unvaccinated. A growing number of people are delaying vaccinations or declining to vaccinate their children due to personal and religious reasons. Hampton believes citizens are apprehensive toward vaccines because they have been misinformed. "People previously thought vaccines were linked to autism, which has since been proven wrong. There is no medical data to substantiate that at all," she

said. Hampton urges vaccinations saying that they offer complete immunity to most people. Most U.S. universities require students to have updated vaccinations, including booster shots. Students interested in attending classes or traveling overseas may be required to have additional vaccinations. Jones County Junior College only requires vaccinations for students planning to join the nursing program. For more information on the measles or vaccinations, visit the JCJC Health Services Clinic or contact Hampton at vicki.hampton@jcjc.edu.

Musical

from page 2

has performed in previous Jones Theater productions such as "A Christmas Carol" playing the role of Mrs. Cratchett. She has also performed in many community theatre productions, and while Scott enjoys her time on stage, she is currently majoring in general studies and wants to go into Christian counseling and work in Baptist ministry. "What makes all the work worth it is it really pays off in the end," said Scott. "I'm somebody else for an hour. It shows me how to commit to something. It makes me a better person every show, and it's grown me into a better actor and a better singer." With the leading ladies being an important part of the musical, the front men also play crucial roles as they are the gamblers who are willing to bet anything when it comes to money. One of those lead roles is Nathan Detroit, who is the fiancé of Miss Adelaide, the head honcho who sets up the crap game, evades the police, and takes his cut off the top. Detroit is played by Harlan Mapp. Mapp, who's in college to study music education, has performed in other shows prior to "Guys and Dolls,"

and confirms that when it's time to put on a show, JCJC director Nikki Johnson spares no details. This musical contains multiple dialects and in order to teach the Jones actors how to master the art of speaking different dialects, Johnson had a speaking coach from USM teach her students New York accents. "It's a melting pot of dialects," said Mapp. "Adelaide has a nasality. The officer has an Irish accent. Dialects are always fun, but the most fun is getting out of yourself and being someone new."

A lot of work has

already been put into this humorous and adoring musical. Between sets, costumes, character learning and much more, the JCJC theatre is once again giving it their all to perform the musical at its best. "We practice every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 11:30-12:20 during our class time and then in the evenings and some weekends," said Johnson in an email interview. "The rehearsals outside of school usually total 160 hours! And all that work for three performances!" All of the students' work

will be worth it come opening night. Show dates and times are March 20-21 at 7 p.m., and there will be a matinee performance on Sunday, March 22 at 2:30 p.m. Admission is \$10; however, JCJC students and faculty who present a valid school ID may watch the performance for free. Mapp said, "Guys and Dolls would be worth seeing because it has something for everybody: love story, comedy, barbershop harmony...if you don't laugh at least ten times then you really missed out." Staff writer Troy Orgeron contributed to this story.



The "guys" in JCJC's musical production, "Guys & Dolls" are belting out a tune during rehearsal. Pictured, left to right, in the front row are Gary Young as Benny Southstreet, Harlan Mapp as Nathan Detroit and David Walker as Nicely-Nicely; second row, Austin Perkins as Rusty Charley, DeJuan Sam as Liver Lips Louie and Chip Cooley playing Brandy Bottle Bates; third row, Reed Schaub playing the Greek, Ricky Chambers as Society Max, Tanner Crabtree as Scranton Slim and Dominic Vellon as Harry the Horse. PHOTO BY TERESA MCCREERY

Baseball

from page 6

Tyler Schwaner came in to pitch for the Bobcats and pitched two innings and allowed no hits. In the bottom of the seventh inning, Hensley got on base by an error on the second baseman and was moved over by a Polles sacrifice bunt. Tyler Schankin hit a single that scored Hensley to make the score 8-1. Perry Turner was called on in the ninth inning to finish out the game and pitched a scoreless inning to end the game 8-1. In game two, Christian Dale got the start for the Bobcats. He pitched five solid innings, allowing one unearned run and only three hits. The Bobcats got the scoring started early, with two runs in the first inning to give them a 2-0 lead. Morgan singled and stole second base to lead off the inning. Sasser was then hit by a pitch to give the Bobcats two

baserunners. Morgan scored on a Manichia single and Sasser scored on a Mason Irby groundout. In the third inning, the Bobcats doubled their score. Manichia doubled and Hensley was hit by a pitch. Irby then hit a double down the right field foul line that scored both runners. The Warhawks scored their only run of the game in the fifth inning when Alec Talley hit a double and advanced to third on a fielding error. John-Mark Cosby scored him on a ground out in the next at-bat. Will Brand and Will Simon both came in as relief pitchers and threw a scoreless inning each as the Bobcats won the second game with a final score of 4-1. Christian Dale was credited with the win. The Bobcats are now 2-0 on the season. Their next game will be March 7 at 2/4 p.m. when they host Meridian Community College.

Stutts

from page 6

sometimes; however, he is always encouraging me and pushing me to do the best and be the best," Stutts said. When Stutts isn't giving lessons or practicing, she is playing ping pong at the Baptist Student Union where her skills and faith can grow. "Tennis hasn't just taught me about teamwork, but it has also brought me closer to God," she said. "Before games I used to get so nervous I thought I would be sick, but I

began praying and giving it all to God. Praying before games calms me down and helps me deal with the pressure, so I can focus on the match." Although Stutts does not plan on playing tennis professionally, she is grateful for the lessons it has taught her and how much she has grown spiritually and personally as a result of it. Her future plans include enrolling in the speech pathology program at the University of Southern Mississippi.

Lightsey

from page 6

who inspired him to pursue the sport at age 11 and taught him everything he knows. "Graham is a good player and an asset to the team," Head coach Mark Easley said. "He's an all-around good person and student and is basically a super individual who represents Jones well." Lightsey said being a full-time student and

athlete is not as hard as one might think. Luckily, the future aviator feels that tennis does not make it hard for him to keep up with his studies. The 20 year old, who has given and received many tennis lessons over the years, recommends constant practice for those who seek to improve their game. He also encourages playing the sport every day as it has helped turn him into the player he is today.

Dominate

from page 6

score the same amount of runs that they did in the first game. Holifield was the starting pitcher in the game and was credited with the win. She pitched three innings and allowed only two hits. The Bobcats gave her some run support in the first inning when Watts singled and later scored on Dew's double. They extended that lead in

the second inning when Jay Harris hit a solo home run and gave the Bobcats a 2-0 lead. Kayleigh Williams was the relief pitcher for Holifield and pitched the final four innings only allowing one hit. The Bobcats advanced to 2-0 on the season and are looking for their fourth straight state championship. Their next game will be at Copiah Lincoln Community College on March 6 at 2/4 p.m.

Kimbrow

from page 2

Kimbrow said that what keeps him encouraged is when he is asked to teach prisoners about his book, "What Makes the Great Great." This gives him examples to say to others of why they should stay educated. His

parents taught him to take advantage of what he had and to keep educating himself. Students who attended the program were impacted and encouraged. Diana McAdoo, JCJC freshman said, "I really enjoyed the speaker. He really motivated me even more so I can do better for myself."

College

from page 1

would offer financial aid to the majority of community college students.

To allow for many Americans to attend community college free, the money would have to come from somewhere. This project will cost an estimated \$80 billion over 10 years. Most of the money, around \$60 billion, would come from the federal government while the remaining \$20 billion will come from state governments.

Although Obama announced his plan at the State of the Union address, many details remain unrevealed. The project itself appears to still be in its early stages and would take a few years to become an active policy even after it has been completed. Therefore, it may still be several years before Americans are able to benefit from “America’s College Promise,” even if it survives its infancy, and is still subject to revision.

Capitol

from page 1

receiving less funding than the K-12 public school system. Although legislators have made strides to provide this funding, community colleges only have 52 percent of that available budget. Community colleges enroll more than 75,000 students, including 54 percent of all undergraduates and nearly half of all students taking a credit course.

“Providing for community colleges is essential because community colleges create an easier transition for students to learn and ultimately succeed in their future careers,” said sophomore Breanna Williams, an elementary education major.

Mid-Level funding could also allow community colleges more opportunities to hold GED preparation classes, and then offer GED graduates a higher education.

“JCJC provides classes to help students earn GEDs in addition to providing credit courses to earn associate’s degrees,” said Dr. Burnham. “The junior college system is vital in this sense because many of these students wouldn’t have an advanced education in order to get a job that would bring them to a livable pay level without junior college opportunities.”

With the amount of funding JCJC receives now, the college is able to educate and maintain more than 5,000 students. If community colleges were given the amount of funding they have been promised, they could possibly accept more students, hire more teachers and provide more educational opportunities both for traditional and non-traditional students.

“With the money we get right now, just look at the great things we’re doing,” said Burnham. “If we were actually at the Mid-Level point, think of the greater obstacles we could overcome. We run into constraints without that higher funding. All we want is to receive what’s between K-12 and senior universities because that’s the fair thing to do.”

Capitol Day is March 5 this year, and all faculty, staff and students are invited to attend. Contact Burnham at 601-517-5700 or at matthew.burnham@jcjc.edu for more information.

Direction

from page 1

student by \$648. According to the Mississippi Economic Policy Center (MEPC), K-12 public schools have lost approximately 13.1 percent funding since 2008. The Mississippi Adequate Education Program (MAEP), which was created to ensure well-balanced education for all K-12 students, has not been fully funded

since 2008. This lack of support has cost K-12 schools across the State over \$1.3 billion in funding.

As the education system in examined more closely, legislators need to consider the risks in cutting funding to public institutions. Students are products of their environments, and Mississippi needs to reevaluate its classroom content and funding possibilities in order to create successful students of all ages.

Golden Oldie: Jones initiates ROTC program

*A selection from the
October 13, 1972
Radonian:*

An R.O.T.C. program has now been initiated at Jones Junior College. This program is important, says a JC administrator, because it enables young men interested in the military to have an equal footing with those who begin college at senior institutions.

Classes at JC are under the direction of Captain Thomas Raines in association with Colonel Guy Groff. Colonel Groff is the professor of

military science at the University of Southern Mississippi.

Captain Raines states that ROTC is a program whereby a young man in college trains in the basic army activities. This includes introduction to weapons, range firing, basic infantry tactics, map reading, and a small amount of drills.

With the completion of these first courses, a sophomore could qualify in the senior program. The army ROTC student could have a chance to qualify for the scholarship

program. The purpose of this program is to help the men to pay for their education while they complete requirements for a commission in the United States Army.

If one fails to enter ROTC as a freshman, he is still eligible for the program, says Captain Raines; however, he must attend an eight weeks boot camp the summer before the junior year.

At JC the student has three hours of class work per week with four hours out of the quarter in drill and at least two days for fire work or weapons.

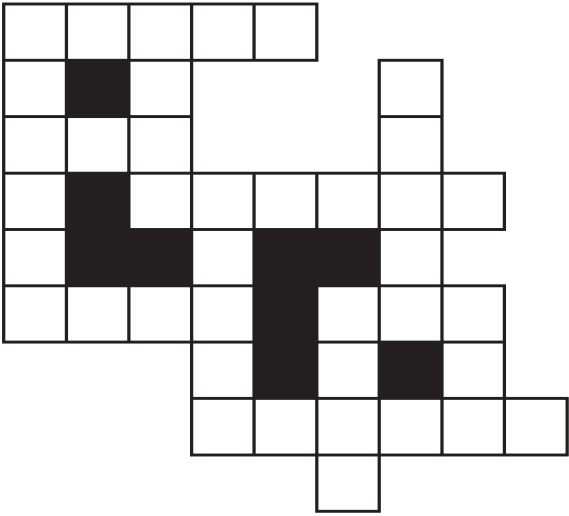
For this he receives 1½ hours of credit as an elective per quarter plus ½ hour credit in physical education.

If one is in line for the draft it will be waived if he joins the Army ROTC.

ROTC is taught sixth period Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Any information in the course is available prior to and after sixth period for anyone interested. Those who are, should contact the Army ROTC instructors in room eight of the Library Building at these times.



ETP
GRUTED
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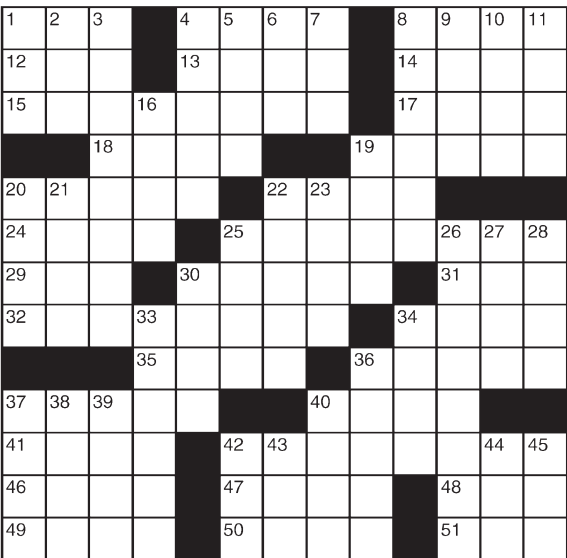
Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. **HAGNEC** becomes **CHANGE**). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥**RATHE** becomes **HATER** or **EARTH** or **HEART**). Fit each string’s word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

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King Crossword

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- 1 Snapshot
4 Dog owner’s ordeal
8 Cougar
12 “Le Coq —”
13 Spread selection
14 On
15 Hive honcho
17 Carry on
18 Actress de Matteo
19 Leading man in the theater?
20 “Odyssey” companion piece
22 Competent
24 Massages
25 Slaked
29 Every last crumb
30 Kama follower
31 Before
32 Interrogate
34 Delany or Carvey
35 Reveille’s opposite
36 Burdened
37 Houdini or Potter
40 Prima donna
41 Supposed super-berry
42 Montreal dweller



- 46 Galvanizing stuff
47 Catch sight of
48 “Yo!”
49 Rewrite, maybe
50 Information
51 — out a living

- 6 Ball-bearing item
7 Weeding tool
8 3.26 light-years
9 Hexagonal state
10 Relocate
11 Mimic
16 Historic times
19 Arm bone
20 Baghdad’s country
21 Humdinger
22 Cars
23 Swiss capital
25 Witticism
26 Migraine
27 Sea flier

- 28 Campus bigwig
30 Remain
33 Not lenient
34 Jay’s rival
36 Neighbor of Sudan
37 Visibility hindrance
38 Low-pH
39 Hindu princess
40 Cabinet div.
42 Proof abbr.
43 Dos Passos trilogy
44 “A mouse!”
45 Catcher’s place

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MAGIC MAZE

MOTION VERBS

J D Z W T Q N K H D A X U R P
M P L U M M E T J T G D A X V
S Q E N K I F D E A X V T Q O
M J H T F C A E Y E L W U R P
N L J H S F T L L G W L D B Z
X E V T R E Q G Y D A O A K M
K I C H R C D G A O R E C F F
D B Z N Y N W I H D C U V T R
Q O N I U U G W S N D L H K I
H F D P P O L L A G C A Z X W
V U S S J B P D S R Q O N M K

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Bounce
Crawl
Dance
Dodge

Duck
Fall
Gallop
Hurdle

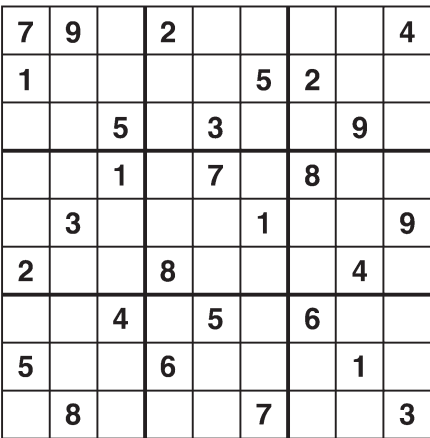
Plummet
Pounce
Sashay
Sidestep

Spin
Teeter
Wiggle

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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Just Like Cats & Dogs

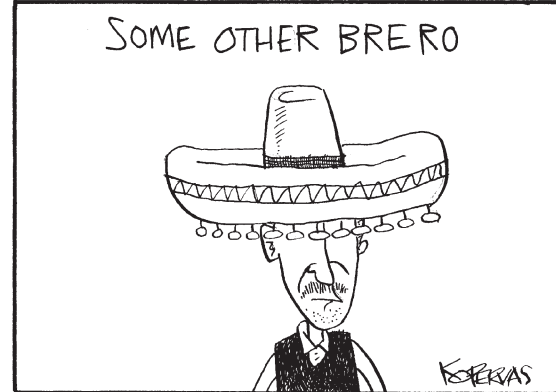
by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb



by Gary Kopervas

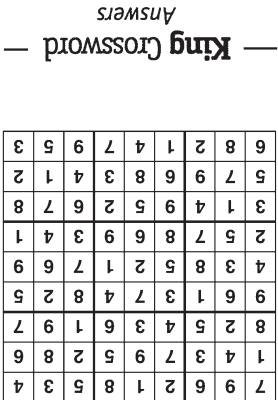


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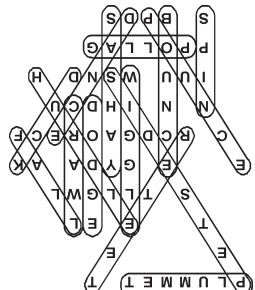
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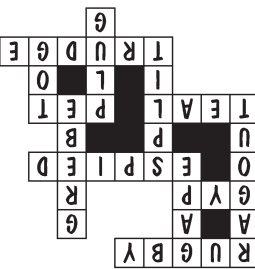
Solution time: 27 mins.

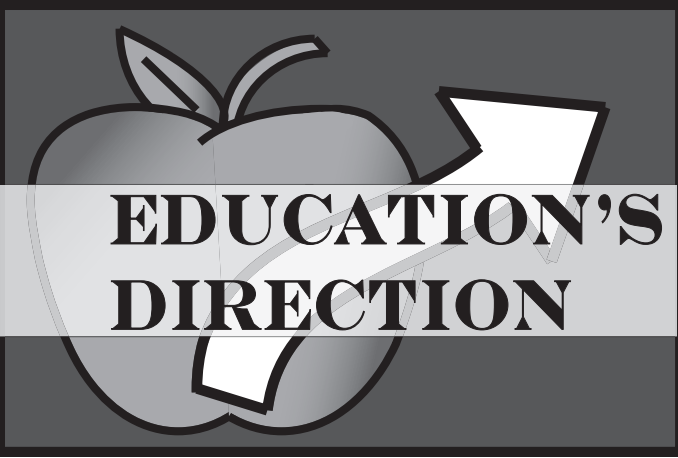


Answer



MOTION VERBS





A Guest Opinion from a Principal: Do we want to educate our children or not?

NOTE: The following opinion column was first published by The Hechinger Report and is re-published with its permission.

By SHANNON EUBANKS

BROOKHAVEN – Last year, an amendment to the Mississippi Constitution that would mandate adequate and efficient funding of public schools – and the ability to seek judicial relief – was placed on the November 2015 ballot. It is called Initiative 42.

Soon after, the Mississippi House, long a bastion of anti-public school sentiment, passed an alternative to Initiative 42 also to go on the ballot. The implication of that alternative, 42-A, is that school funding should be tied to achievement.

This alternative will at best muddle the issue and most likely doom the initiative outright.

Only about 30 percent of student achievement comes from in-school factors such as teachers, principals and class size. Almost 70 percent comes from outside factors like access to resources. This imbalance becomes amplified in Mississippi, which ranks at the top in poverty, teen pregnancy and illiteracy.

If lawmakers wanted to make the biggest effect on student achievement, they would focus on those home and community factors that matter most.

However, to overcome these factors it would take a greater commitment of focus and resources than our lawmakers want to give.

So, the public school is asked to perform miracles and use its 30 percent effect to overcome the 70 percent effect outside school. Because most communities across Mississippi do not have the resources to fund their own schools, the state is asked to help.

The Mississippi Adequate Education Program (MAEP) is the formula used by Mississippi to determine what resources to give K-12 schools to educate children. Basically, schools are funded by the state on the low end cost of what a “C” or “Successful” district costs to operate.

The important thing to remember is that this formula is what the legislature decided on how it would fund schools. MAEP was created to avoid a lawsuit over underfunding public schools.

Now, there are those who maintain money is not the answer. They claim by offering competition and choice – like merit pay, charter schools and vouchers -- student achievement will improve while lowering cost. And besides, they argue, any increase in school funding goes toward administration anyway, not the classroom. Hogwash.

The facts are:

– In a December report on school efficiency and funding, no clear factors were found between funding, efficiency and achievement, other than poor districts require more money. In fact, districts scoring a “C,” “D” or “F” spent MORE on instruction than “A” or “B” districts.

– Teacher quality is very important, maybe most important, in a classroom. But evidence from other states demonstrates that about 80-90 percent of all teachers are comparable in effectiveness, with only a small percentage at the extremes (Master teacher and Ineffective teacher). So unless a child has a truly terrible teacher, she or he will have a quality teacher. But by telling teachers they are only valuable if they are in the top 1-5 percent (i.e., Merit Pay) you undermine and discourage teachers to the point it becomes difficult to retain or recruit.

see **GUEST** page 12

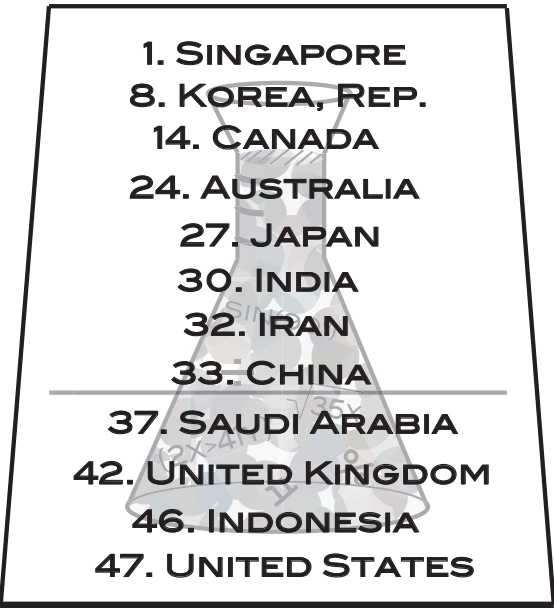
CHANCE CLARK
OPINIONS EDITOR

Nothing is new, as the United States continues to struggle in STEM education.

Science, technology, engineering and mathematics are growing fields filled with opportunity, yet American students are seemingly disinterested in pursuing careers in these high-paying fields. As it stands, the World Economic Forum ranks the United States 52 in mathematics and science education.

It ranks 27 in developed nations for the percentage of college students receiving undergraduate STEM degrees. Even more appalling is that of the number of engineers who receive Ph.D.'s from

MATH AND SCIENCE RANKS WORLDWIDE (SHOWING SELECT COUNTRIES' RANKS OF 2013)



American universities, over two thirds are not U.S. citizens.

The Programme International

Student Assessment is a standardized test administered to 15-year-old students in countries around the world. The PISA

is given every three years and gives perspective into how different countries rank in various fields. According to the 2012 PISA, America falls below average in mathematics scores, ranking 27 out of 34. Its science scores rank 20.

Why is it that the United States has consistently ranked below average in STEM throughout the past decade? The problem begins in K-12 education. Students simply are not interested in STEM. Even though the overall number of students interested has been gradually climbing, by graduation, some of those students have already lost interest. The problem becomes maintaining the interest that is so often

see **STEM** page 12

Environment impacts education

MARIANNA LUNSFORD
STAFF WRITER

Some like to believe that all children are born with the same potential to become successful learners; however, that may not be the case.

Children's potential to become successful learners is partly determined by their upbringing. According to most psychologists, a child's intellectual development is most heavily impacted throughout early childhood, when under the complete influence of their parents or guardians.

Recent studies show that children are most motivated to learn new information and skills when their environments are abundant in tasks that cultivate their curiosity and offer balanced challenges and obtainable goals.

Some homes are capable of providing materials that stimulate the child's mind, such as computers, games, puzzles and books. Unfortunately, not all children are born into homes with these same educational resources or such attentive parents.

When it comes to learning abilities, children born

into low-income, single parent or young parental homes are confronted with substantial educational obstacles.

Research shows that many children born into these high-risk environments typically test on a 3-year-old level upon entering kindergarten.

With the Mississippi Delta being one of the poorest regions in the nation, we see these statistics strike close to home. Most families located in the Delta suffer from high poverty levels, and parents cannot stay home with children or afford to purchase

proactive educational tools.

For example, according to the Delta Directions Consortium (www.idealists.org) nationally, 12.4 percent of individuals live below poverty, while in the Mississippi Delta, 29.16 percent do. In addition, nationally, 19.6 percent of adults lack a high school diploma, while in the Mississippi Delta, that number is 36.48 percent. The Mississippi Delta, on this website, is defined as certain counties located along the Mississippi River in Mississippi, Louisiana

see **IMPACTS** page 12

Special education needs attention

ARIEL YOUNG
NEWS EDITOR

Everyone seems to be caught in the whirlwind of Common Core lately, but Americans seem to forget a pre-existing problem that needs addressing before new problems can be tackled: special education in the public school system.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) defines a specific learning disability as “a disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, which disorder may manifest itself in the imperfect ability to listen,

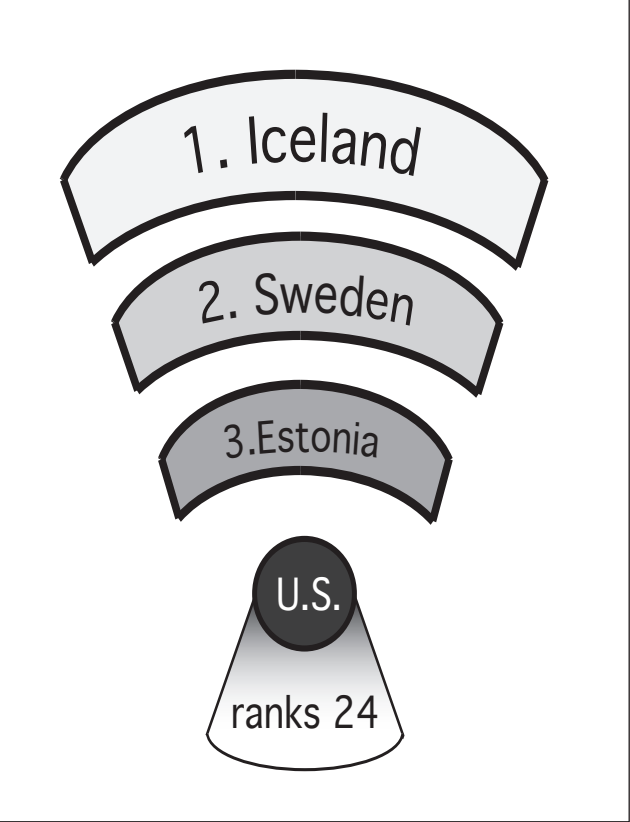
think, speak, read, write, spell, or do mathematical calculations.”

Special education classes are supposed to help students with these disabilities pass what classes they need in order to obtain their high school diplomas. However, while some public special education courses do aid their students, some do not.

Some students in this situation receive endless stacks of coloring sheets and meaningless work that do not benefit them because some teachers are not properly trained to educate students with

see **SPECIAL** page 12

Internet Availability in Schools Worldwide Top 3 countries ranked highest internet access



Clearing the Air: The Myths and Facts of Mississippi Common Core

Claim: Common Core standards are federally mandated.

Reality: Mississippi, along with 45 other states and the District of Columbia, voluntarily adopted the standards. The federal government did not write them, did not approve them, and does not mandate them.

Claim: The Common Core shifts control of education from local school boards to the federal government.

Reality: Local school boards still hold the same level of control in which they had before common core standards were adopted.

Claim: The Common Core Standards influence

the curriculum taught by teachers.

Reality: The Standards are not a curriculum. They are a representation of objectives which should be met by students in the areas of English and math. Decisions about how to teach the standards are left to local school districts who know their students best.

Claim: Teachers were not involved in the writing of the state's standards.

Reality: The beginning process of The Common Core State Standards were impacted by teachers all across the nation. In addition, state experts were brought together to help determine the best means of standards for students.

Claim: The Common Core is not internationally benchmarked.

Reality: The Standards draw from the best existing standards in the country and are benchmarked to the top performing nations around the world, ensuring that our students are well prepared to compete with their peers abroad for the jobs of the future.

Claim: The Common Core does not have enough emphasis on fiction and literature.

Reality: While there is a shift towards including informational text in the standards, literature is also included. The Standards require certain critical content for all students,

including: classic myths and stories from around the world, America's Founding Documents, foundational American literature, and Shakespeare. Standards require that students obtain knowledge in literature and other disciplines through reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

Claim: Common Core was developed quickly and with little public comment.

Reality: The standards were developed by a thoughtful and open process led by the National Governors Association and Council for Chief State School Officers. The members received nearly 10,000 comments in response to the draft, which

were later incorporated into the final standards.

Claim: Common Core requires data tracking of student information.

Reality: The Common Core does not require student data collection. Mississippi only adopted content standards in mathematics and English language arts.

All information above provided by www.mde.k12.ms.us/MCCRS/facts

Additional myths and facts:

Claim: Cursive writing will no longer be taught in schools.

Reality: Cursive writing is not a standard in Common

Core due to evolving technology; however, six states have added this form of writing to their standards. Mississippi is not one of them.

Claim: Schools lose funding if they do not adopt Common Core.

Reality: Schools do not lose funding if they do not adopt Common Core. However, Oklahoma, who repealed common core, must set aside \$29 million of Federal Title I dollars to make up for the Obama Administration waiving Oklahoma's No Child Left Behind Act. This is said to be punishment for repealing Common Core, according to www.breitbart.com.

– BY STAFF WRITER CODY COURTNEY

Pros

from page 3

would eventually be used for this funding. Inevitably, the taxpayer would be wrestled out of even more money than now.

In addition, there is the entire concept of higher education. Some students already paying for community college fill college remedial classrooms.

These students simply are not ready for higher education.

By implementing “free” tuition into community colleges, doors open to those who, truthfully, do not always need to be there. Higher education, unfortunately, is not for everyone. If community college tuition indeed becomes “free,” attendance should not become mandatory because not everyone even wishes to

attend college.

America also suffers from a nasty habit of appealing to the lowest common denominator in education. Handouts are not usually given without a catch. With government funding, the risk of increased control in the curriculum of community colleges would undoubtedly arise. The seemingly low amount of government control over higher education is a major benefit of such institutions and for the government to interfere due to money would be detrimental.

Perhaps once President Obama defines his plans clearly, more can be determined, but for now, the idea of free community college certainly has its bright spots, but they simply do not outweigh the potential difficulties and setbacks associated with such reform.

Vaccines

from page 3

states and Washington D.C.

Surprisingly, Mississippi leads the nation in vaccination rates, having 99.7 percent of kindergarteners covered by vaccines, while Colorado holds the lowest rate in the nation with a vaccination rate of only 81.7 percent.

Mississippi grants neither philosophical nor religious exemptions from vaccinations, unlike many states. If there is a correlation between vaccines and autism, Mississippi should present considerably higher rates of autism than most other states. According to recent studies, however, New Jersey tops the charts with 1 in 45 children being

identified with Autism Spectrum Disorder while Mississippi remains below average at 1 in 88.

Even if vaccination did cause autism in 1 out of every 68 children, that is better than the alternative. Prior to vaccination, measles infected millions of people, mostly children, and caused approximately 500 deaths every year in the U.S.

Vaccinations offer almost complete immunity to most people, protecting them from deadly diseases, from the measles to polio and even smallpox. Pediatrician and public health activist Irwin Redlener once said, “The risks are far greater to your child of not getting immunized than any kind of speculative potential relationship between the vaccine and the development of autism.”

Union

from page 3

wind energy with close to 80 gigawatts of wind capacity, as compared to our 60 gigawatts.

Major oil companies around the country are conducting huge lay-offs, affecting thousands of families and leaving them with no source of income. It may be nice to fill up for less than \$70 for those not directly associated with the oil field, but for those who are, it is devastating.

Obama went on to outline his plans, or rather his ideas without a plan, for the next few years. He wants to make community college free, make student loan rates lower, help veterans get jobs, stop ISIL, help illegal immigrants, and make people look at the

events in Ferguson and New York differently. However, he never once actually outlined how he planned to accomplish any of the things he wants to do.

Obama ended his speech with a cheeky comment directed toward Republicans, saying, “I have no more campaigns to run – I know because I’ve won both of them.” In past Presidential State of the Union Addresses, there have always been respectful mentions of their competitors, never downright insults to the opposition.

In short, unfortunately, the State of the Union is not “strong” The State of the Union is weakening more every day to the point where many citizens in this country no longer even understand what the word “union” means.

newfound friend and, in a time of a dire crisis in Starling City, begins her journey as the CW’s Black Canary. All in all, this is an extraordinary superhero show with more to look forward to.

Arrow airs on the CW Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Food

from page 4

of Sonic,” Gilbreath said. “This was not done because they had to or any other reason, but because it will be the best thing for our customers and business.”

Sonic was originally planned to be open by mid March, but construction

was pushed back due to weather. Gilbreath said he is still hoping that the restaurant can open by the end of March or first of April.

In Laurel, be on the look out for some new updates and popular food chains being built, including an IHop next to Shoney’s, and the new Panda Express next to Raising Cane’s.



Tire Fire causes delay

At approximately 3 a.m. January 23, a used tire business located on Highway 11 caught fire. The intense fire melted a power line, and by the time students were heading to JCJC for morning classes, the roads were still blocked with firetrucks and power company trucks. PHOTO BY ANNA BETH HOUSTON

Excuses

from page 4

person’s house and block the main road that goes through our town, but the bus was full of kids ranging from preschool to high school. In fact, my friend’s little brother was on the bus when it took this slight detour. It took hours until the town authorities cleaned up

the mess, which further delayed people from getting to school.

In another situation, high school homecoming is a tradition when the seniors leave their mark on the school for everybody to remember; however, one year, they went too far by letting the air out of the bus tires. Even though this was an action that would’ve resulted in many charges, the kids who

did it never got caught. Their goal of delaying bus departure not only worked, but it almost got school cancelled for the entire day.

Most of the time living in a small town is quiet and uneventful, but when something big happens, it is usually noticed. The only thing that spreads faster than the knowledge of a sale at the Dollar General is gossip about

somebody’s new hairstyle. Sometimes I swear people know something eventful is going to happen before the people involved even know, but rest assured that if something happens that will be an inconvenience, no one will be informed until someone is stuck in the middle of it and waiting for help. Luckily, help can’t be more than a few miles away.

Chess

from page 4

is a two-player board game played using strategy, anticipation and concentration skills. The Chess Club’s purpose is to develop experienced chess players’ strategy skills and also teach new players how to maneuver the game. McMullan referred to the game with a quote by a great chess player named Bobby Fisher that “chess is life.” “It’s challenging fun,”

said McMullan. “You get what you put into it.”

The club can also train members to compete in chess tournaments where players have the potential to win prizes. To compete, people must buy a membership with the United States Chess Federation which is \$26 a year for anyone who is 24 years or younger. McMullan also wants to invite experienced chess players like David Ross, an international chess master who lives in Mississippi,

to do exhibitions with the school’s club. Nevertheless, the main goal of the JCJC Chess Club is for members to play chess with friends and have a good time.

“I saw the flyer and I like to play so I thought I would join,” said Jordan Sanders, a new JCJC chess member. “It was a chance to make friends and play chess.”

To become a part of the Chess Club, each member pays a \$15 entry fee, which goes toward purchasing

additional chess sets for the club. There is also a school regulation that members of the club have to have at least a 2.25 GPA to join.

“Everyone’s welcome to come no matter their skill level,” said McMullan.

The Chess Club meets once a week on Mondays at 5 p.m. in the JCJC Student Success Center. The club is still accepting new members, so any student or faculty member is welcome to join the Chess Club.

Spring

from page 4

sounds more peaceful. If a student is short on funds, needing some space, or just tired, catching up on sleep and other favorite hobbies are ways to compose oneself and enjoy activities he or she loves. Travelers with some

money to spare can escape to a fun week at the beach with friends for an exciting or relaxing trip. This is a traditionally expected trip for college students to take during spring break, and there is definitely a good reason why. It’s a great way to get some sun and a taste of what summer has to offer.

On the other hand, students feeling more

adventurous can go another route and visit the mountains and admire the change of scenery. Taking a skiing or hiking trip can certainly awaken any spirit that needs a lift during the school year.

If vacationing or relaxing are not options, students can use their break from school to earn extra hours at work. While those who work may have

friends who are having fun and going out, at the end of the week their bank accounts will reward them for their devotion to their jobs.

Whether students are working, doing nothing or going on adventures, spring break can be a safe haven for those who need some time away from school.

Cheer

from page 2

freshman did not take part in the actual performance, her contribution to the team was being a cheerleader to the cheerleaders.

“It was hard being there for so many practices and trying to deal with school,” Word said. “Finals week was just terrible, but being able to be there for my team and encourage them was the best part.” Josh Rushe, known to

the JCJC student body as Thor, shared some of his personal struggles while preparing for nationals.

“I struggled with the time restraints and the time spent there. It was physically taxing, but just the feeling of doing something good and cool made it all worth it,” he said.

For both Word and Rushe, being part of the JCJC cheer squad has helped them meet many people.

“The experience (of being a Jones cheerleader)

helps you to get to know so many people,” Word said. “On the squad, you have a good bond with them. It also helps you to connect with other students, like when you’re cheering at football games and basketball games. It’s just something to use to get connected with the school.”

Rushe explained that cheerleaders are a special kind of people.

“Cheerleading is such a strange sport because everyone is nice to everyone else. You’re at

competition and everyone is encouraging everyone else.”

Word said that even though being on the squad can be hard at times, the end result is worth it.

“It’s hard sometimes, but it’s fun. I’m glad that I did it,” she said.

Though being a Jones cheerleader presents many challenges, it also provides great triumphs. Like anything in life, it takes risks and challenges to achieve greatness.

Majors

from page 4

that class. They should also find someone who has a job in that field and probe them with as many questions as possible,” said Jackson.

Jones has several counselors who are willing to talk to students about changing majors. The Student Success Center can administer career assessments as well as offer support and encouragement as students

gather information and move toward making a well-informed decision. Students who would like to set up an appointment to speak with one of the counselors can call (601) 477-4257.

His advice encourages students to pick a major which works with students’ interests and passions. Changing majors is an important decision that can be worthwhile.

“If you’re thinking about it, then change it,” Jackson said.

Rebels

from page 3

as the rebels despise the pro-West government in Kiev. Of course, Russia has wanted all of Ukraine back, not only two cities.

Humans rarely stop and think of the consequences their actions bring upon others. Because of the fighting, damage to infrastructure is a major concern, along

with collateral damage to the population. This situation keeps both the people of Ukraine in a state of fear as well as anyone who may actually want to visit the country. The country’s economy is suffering, and people’s daily lives are upended due to power outages, limited travel and destruction of their towns. With the Ukrainian people in mind, this conflict needs to end.

Students share concerns at Town Hall meeting

ANNA BETH HOUSTON
STAFF WRITER

Several Jones students took part in the JCJC town hall meeting Feb. 24. Hosted each semester by the Student Government Association, the meeting is designed to give students an opportunity to voice their grievances and hopefully, resolve the problem.

This was the first town hall meeting run completely by SGA members. The freshman class president, Matt Ishee, and five student senators representing various departments and dorm buildings officiated the evening. Students asked questions and

presented concerns, including topics such as internet connection, dorm student charges and the installment of benches by the lake.

Students are concerned about the wireless connection and are seeking improvements. One student suggested that benches be placed around the lake. This idea found immediate approval from the other students, but suggestions were made as to what type of bench to install. John Addison Ford brought up the point that he had to pay \$25 to get back into his room after he was locked out. Ishee asked him if making this payment

was part of the rulebook, and Ford responded that it was not. The president and senators plan to look into the charging of students to get back into dorm rooms.

Ishee gave this explanation of town hall meetings:

“The importance of town hall meetings is to get as many students here as we can and figure out what their concerns are and how we can help them and make Jones a better place for those who live, stay, and go to school here. If we have answers, we can give them to them. If we don’t, we can go to a higher up person and ask them, get their opinions and their facts

on our situation. It helps everybody out.”

While many people may not see the purpose in participating in events such as the town hall meeting, without these opportunities to express problems, the student body would have a difficult time improving the campus. These meetings are an easy and effective way to voice ideas.

The five senators who participated were Haley Middleton, for the business department; Lincoln Rogers, agriculture department; Joanna Word, Wayne Hall; Kaitlyn Caulfield, Math Center and Dillon Boyte, Greene Hall.



Students from the audience ask questions during the Town Hall meeting. PHOTO BY ANNA BETH HOUSTON

NASA

from page 2

began teaching high school in Picayune.

While teaching, he became the chairman of the science department and created the first computer core curriculum class in the state. A few years after he began teaching, he was contacted by the NASA facility in Hancock County, Miss., and was offered a position researching and developing new technology.

Expectations of Dease were high from his first assignment. He and his team were given free reign within the lab to experiment so long as they could find a way to develop a satellite sensory system and a way to interpret the information it transmitted. The team was successful, and from there Dease moved on to

many other assignments regarding safety and technology. He and his teams would test shuttle engine function and materials that could aid in efficiency. He even worked on part of the space-launch system program of the Orion craft that successfully landed on Mars.

After concluding his story about his personal work and experiences, Dease answered students’ questions about space travel and habitation, as well as the developing technologies that could make it possible. He elaborated in detail about the implications that would need to be overcome in order for humans to colonize other planets, such as resource sustainability. He also spoke to students about enhanced rovers that can scout faraway, inhospitable planets in addition to the

development of lighter, stronger and more efficient materials, such as nano particles and carbon fibers that would allow for improved human travel through space.

Dease told students, “Remember, if you have a choice between genius and perseverance, choose perseverance, because it will win every time.”

His ascent from humble beginnings to such astounding heights and his encouraging words inspired many students.

Freshman Emily Bedwell said, “It was really moving to hear his story and the encouragement he gave to all the students. He encouraged everyone, regardless of major or career choice, to put forth their best effort and excel. He also personally inspired me to continue working towards my goals of becoming a mechanical engineer.”

Light

from page 5

in thinning hordes of zombies, sticking with gas pipes and machetes is a lot more fun.

In addition to improved combat, Techland has included, arguably, the best system of movement in a first-person game to date. The player character is extremely agile, able to free-run with ease through the streets, atop buildings and over and around zombies. This parkour system is definitely a primary contributor to “Dying Light’s” fun factor.

The player can also get better as time moves on thanks to the in-game RPG-like leveling system. After killing

zombies, doing some free-running or assisting fellow survivors, the player earns points used to level up three skill trees: survivor, agility and power. These trees grant awesome skills, like the powerful dropkick, after dumping points into each.

Speaking of leveling, the best part of “Dying Light” is in the game’s title. The game contains a day/night cycle which directly factors into how the game is played. During the day, what can be considered “The Walking Dead” becomes “28 Days Later” at night. Not only do the zombies mutate so they can now run, but a special type of undead, called Volatiles, come out at night. Volatiles are near indestructible and if

they spot the player, the best course of action is to run. However, that isn’t even guaranteed to keep the player from reloading a checkpoint. In addition to leveling faster at night, the tension is so thick that players will be on the edge of their seats the entire time.

Having spent significant time with “Dying Light,” this game seems like the one Techland wished to create all along. Everything about “Dying Light” screams better, from the excellent parkour, improved combat and a somewhat improved story over “Dead Island.” All this combines to make “Dying Light” the best zombie game in years and an excellent start to 2015.

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Lady Bobcats in the Pink Zone



It was “Pink Zone Night” Feb. 16 and the Lady Bobcats wore pink jerseys to recognize Breast Cancer research. Pink t-shirts, cupcakes, cotton candy and assorted pink candies were also sold to raise money for research. That night, the Lady Bobcats defeated the Southwest Mississippi Community College Lady Bears 80-60. The Lady Bobcats also celebrated “Sophomore Night” with the victory. PHOTOS BY ANNA BETH HOUSTON

Smoking

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or activities that are deemed unhealthy and optional? Everyone has the potential to possess harmful habits and activities such as smoking, drinking, overuse of medications, lack of exercise and eating too much. These are all habits that could be corrected with the proper assistance. However, even personality traits such as stress, depression, hyperactivity and irritability can also be unhealthy for people and cause numerous problems. Could companies raise rates for someone who unnecessarily stresses his or her body and claim that the person could technically control this unhealthy problem by seeking counseling to find better

ways of coping? With this in mind, if insurance companies targeted one habit, should they target them all? If not, is that fair to people who choose using tobacco as their recreational habit for their rates to go up while others stay the same or decrease? Or if people agree more unhealthy habits should be affected by higher rates, where is the limit on what should and should not be regulated by health insurances? Life happens, and sometimes people can control the outcomes, but sometimes people cannot. This is why people pay insurance companies, to assist them when they have an accident or when they make a mistake, because people are human, and everyone needs a little security.

PTK sets plans for spring semester

JESSICA MOORE
STAFF WRITER

With the second semester of the Jones County Junior College 2014-2015 school year in full swing, 207 new members were inducted into the Rho Sigma chapter of Phi Theta Kappa on February 17. Each of the new inductees was challenged by guest speaker George Bassi, executive director of the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art, to make the most of their time on Earth as time is a precious commodity and changes occur quickly. Inductees and guests were also welcomed to a reception after the ceremony hosted by Mississippi State University. PTK will host university recruiters throughout the spring semester, including representatives from Mississippi State University, Mississippi

College, the University of Mississippi and the University of Southern Mississippi. Graduating sophomores will have opportunities to interact with these representatives, assuring a seamless transition to the university of choice. Freshmen will also be introduced to the transfer process and scholarship opportunities that are available upon graduation from Jones. Upcoming meetings will be held March 20, April 10 and May 1 with recruiters present at each meeting. All Rho Sigma members can receive information regarding upcoming speakers on the Rho Sigma Community pages located on the MyJones portal. In addition to local chapter meetings, Rho Sigma will travel to Baton Rouge, Lou., for the annual MS/LA Regional Conference on March

6-7. At the conference, which will be held on the campus of Louisiana State University, chapters throughout the region will showcase their Honors in Action and College Projects completed during 2014. Regional awards will be given at this event. Continuing Rho Sigma's 2014 College Project focusing on art as a form of human expression, a “Pick a Palette!” painting workshop was conducted on the evening of Feb. 26 and a “Splash of Color Run” is scheduled for the afternoon of Sunday, April 12. Proceeds from these events will be used to offset costs for a large sculpture to be placed on the lawn between Visual Arts and the Student Success Center later in the spring term, as an ongoing testament to Rho Sigma's commitment and support of the arts on campus.

Following the great success of Rho Sigma's Honors in Action project for 2014, “Be a Hero: Save Lives!” Rho Sigma will partner with Mississippi Organ Recovery Agency and other campus organizations in April 2015 to promote National Donate Life Month. During the 2014 campaign, 85 applications were received from people willing to become organ donors, equating to a potential 680 lives that can be saved or positively impacted from the donation of either organs or tissue. Dates and activities for Donate Life events will be announced at a later date. For more information regarding the Rho Sigma chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, please contact Julie Atwood at julie.atwood@jcjc.edu, Carson Atwood at carson.atwood@jcjc.edu, Mark Brown at mark.brown@jcjc.edu or Sarah Ishee at sarah.ishee@jcjc.edu.



Harley Purdue participates in the PTK painting workshop held in February. PHOTO BY ANNA BETH HOUSTON

Special

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disabilities. Whatever the reasoning, the mistreatment of specially educated students needs to stop. Educating children with learning disabilities is more difficult than teaching children without diagnoses. Instead of shelling out extra money to cater to a minority that is steadily increasing, the majority of public school institutions do not offer modified curriculum in order for students with learning and behavioral disorders to obtain a diploma. Public school systems offer some sort of special education classes and a handful of instructors who know how to professionally work with disabled students. However, these students

are not on the same graduation track as regular students. Many receive a certificate of attendance for going through the motions of high school, but a diploma is only offered to students who can pass basic curriculum courses. Some private institutions offer learning programs specifically designed with disabled children at heart such as the DuBard School for Learning and Language Disorders at the University of Southern Mississippi, but privately educating a child usually means either surrendering entire paychecks or waiting for acceptance on a mile-long list. In today's society, the government works more and more to provide options for low income families, but what about education? Parents do not decide

what kind of child to have, and low income families cannot support sending a child to private school unless they surrender other necessities. If the government wishes to dictate everything Americans do, they should include providing better educational options to Americans with learning disabilities. Americans need to fight against the lack of affordable and useful educational opportunities for disabled students. Albert Einstein said, “Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.” American public school systems should start treating all students like the wonders they are and offer modified paths to reach the same end goal: a quality education.

STEM

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sparked at a young age. One method that high schools and universities across the nation have begun using is to introduce the fun aspects of STEM subjects before delving into theory and application. Robert Curbeam is a former NASA astronaut and current Vice President of Mission Assurance at Raytheon in Massachusetts. In an interview with “U.S. News,” he spoke of STEM's importance for the future and how he was able to stay interested as a student. “I just think it's through exposure. I count my lucky stars that I had a chemistry teacher as a mom,” Curbeam

stated. “I had a very keen understanding of science at a very young age. I think parents need to expose their children to more of this, even if it's just going to the science museum once a year and going, ‘Hey, isn't this cool?’” President Obama and Congress have taken great interest in advancing STEM education over the past few years. The 2015 fiscal year budget involves millions of dollars in funding and programs that aim to improve STEM subjects for students. Hopefully, with the government's involvement, students can seize the opportunities offered in STEM careers.

Impacts

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and Arkansas. With demographics like these, we cannot say that all children are born with equal educational opportunities. Once children born into high-risk environments develop into adults, these disadvantages tend to follow them into the workplace, affecting our state's educational and economical statistics. Many theories have been discussed and experiments explored, such as charter schools, in attempts to address these issues. Until progress is made, some of the children in our state cannot live up to their full educational potential.

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Guest

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– Research demonstrates that charter schools, as a whole, are no better than community public schools and in many cases are worse. A recent study in Ohio showed that most charters were outperformed by their public school counterparts. New Orleans Recovery District, which is held as a model for charters, scored a “D” in the most recent rankings. And for this, charter CEOs are often paid THREE TIMES what school principals are paid.

– School vouchers transfer public dollars to private schools with little to no oversight. Louisiana, Indiana, Wisconsin and Washington D.C., which use vouchers extensively, report no real improvement in student achievement, no accountability for how public dollars are used, and no remedy when voucher dollars are misused. Even vouchers that theoretically sound good (special-needs vouchers) are poorly-written to provide a backdoor to transfer public money to private schools with no evidence that student achievement improves.

– Mississippi pays for only 65 percent of what a school district needs to operate, but 85 percent of district costs go towards the classroom. So the legislature is not even fully funding the classroom, much less school administrators. But to the charge that administrator salaries are rising while teacher salaries are not, it's simple: when a 30-year teacher retires, he or she is often replaced with an inexperienced teacher (saving up to one-third of salary costs), whereas when school administrators (who aren't on salary scales) retire, they are replaced

with an experienced educator for about the same salary. Basically, this is a wedge issue to divide educators and remove the focus off underfunded schools. Elected officials claim they will spend more money on education, but not on fully funding schools through MAEP. Instead, the money will be “targeted.” What are the targets? Testing vouchers, charter schools, merit pay pilot, private pre-K grants (NOT universal pre-K), and others. It's a ruse. Over 90 percent of Mississippi students attend

public schools, but instead of investing in those schools, lawmakers want to shift funding to sources that will benefit only 10 percent of students. This is a return to the days when schools were funded only for the affluent; poor and minority schools were neglected. But at the end of the day, the argument about school funding and MAEP is simple: do you support a chance at a quality education for all students, that the purpose of schools is to prepare students to take their place in our society and be contributing members? Or do you

believe in a dual system, for the haves and the have-nots, and that money is wasted trying to educate the poorest, highest minority, economically depressed areas of our state? Traditionally, Mississippi has held the latter; I work to try to make it the former. Shannon Eubanks is the principal of the Enterprise Attendance Center in Brookhaven, Mississippi. * This story was produced by The Hechinger Report, a nonprofit, independent news website focused on inequality and innovation in education.